

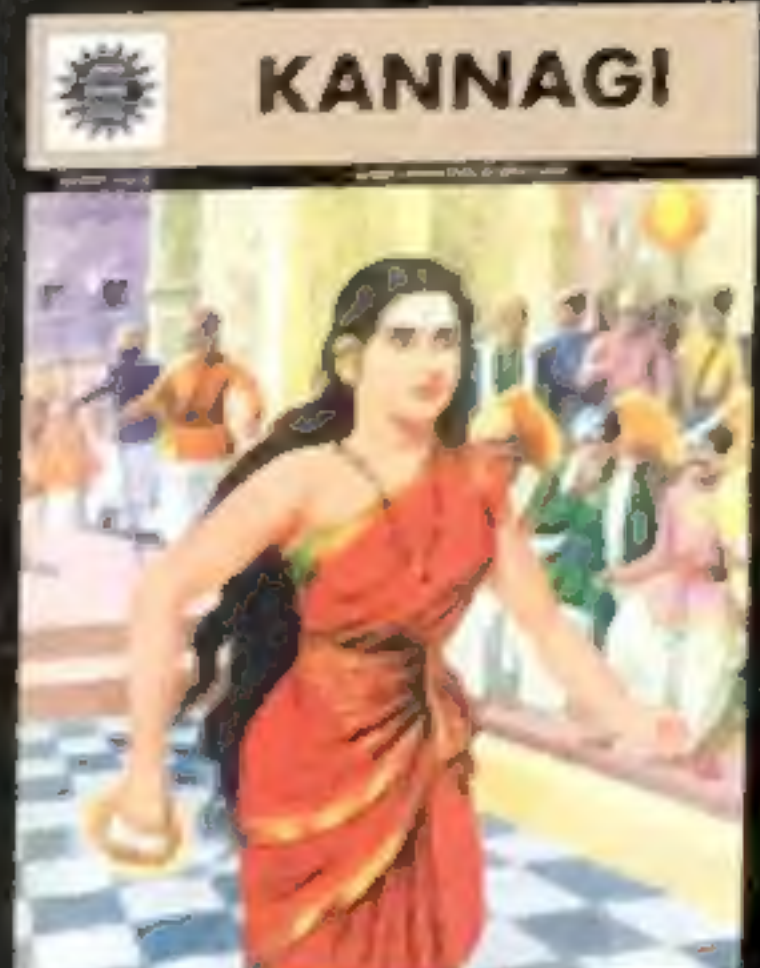
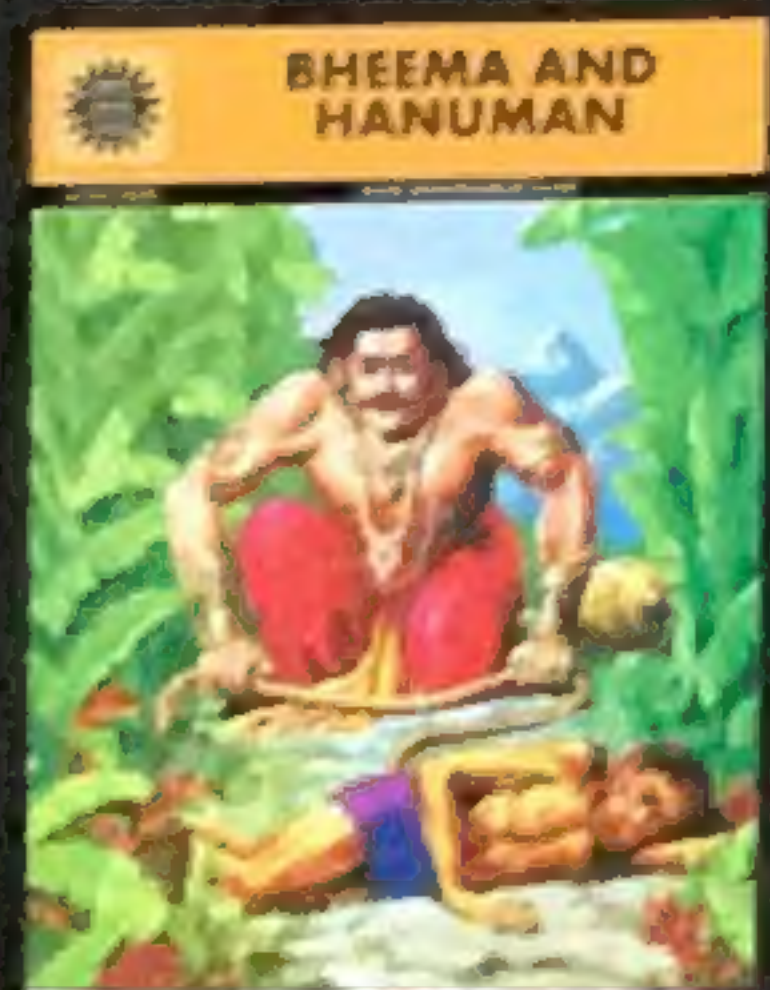
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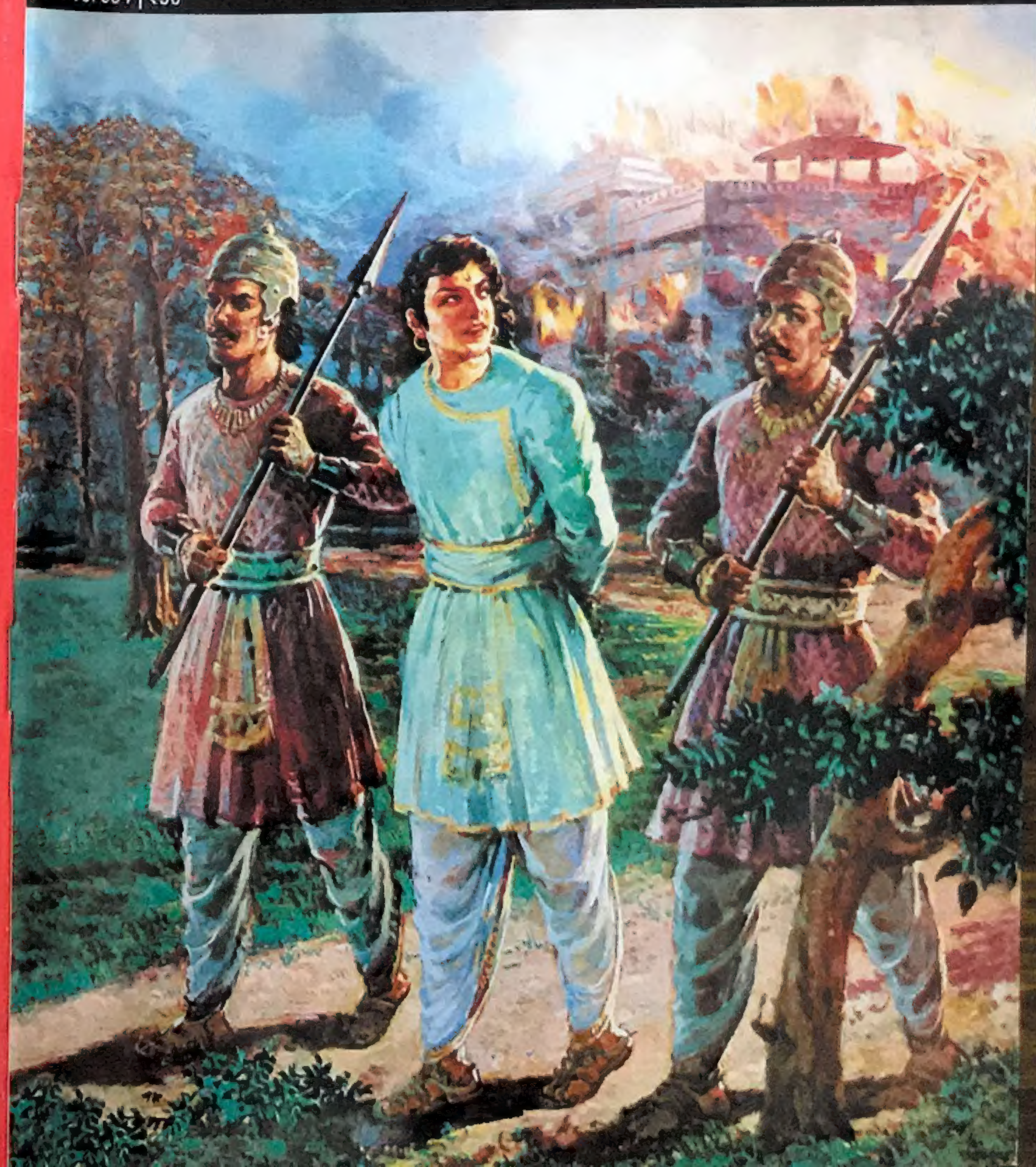
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CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA

THE DETERMINED PRINCE

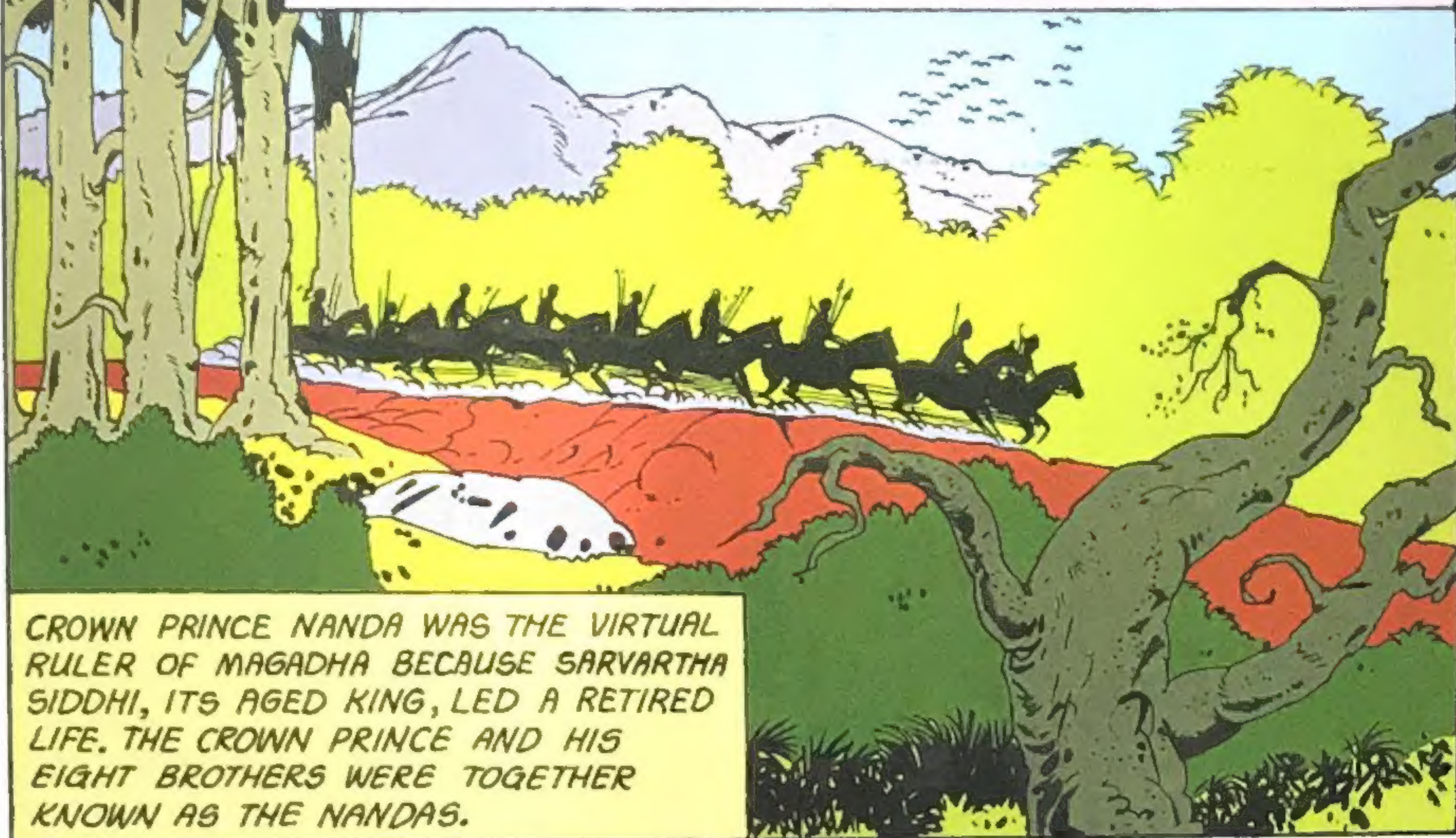
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NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA



CROWN PRINCE NANDA WAS THE VIRTUAL RULER OF MAGADHA BECAUSE SARVARTHA SIDDHI, ITS AGED KING, LED A RETIRED LIFE. THE CROWN PRINCE AND HIS EIGHT BROTHERS WERE TOGETHER KNOWN AS THE NANDAS.

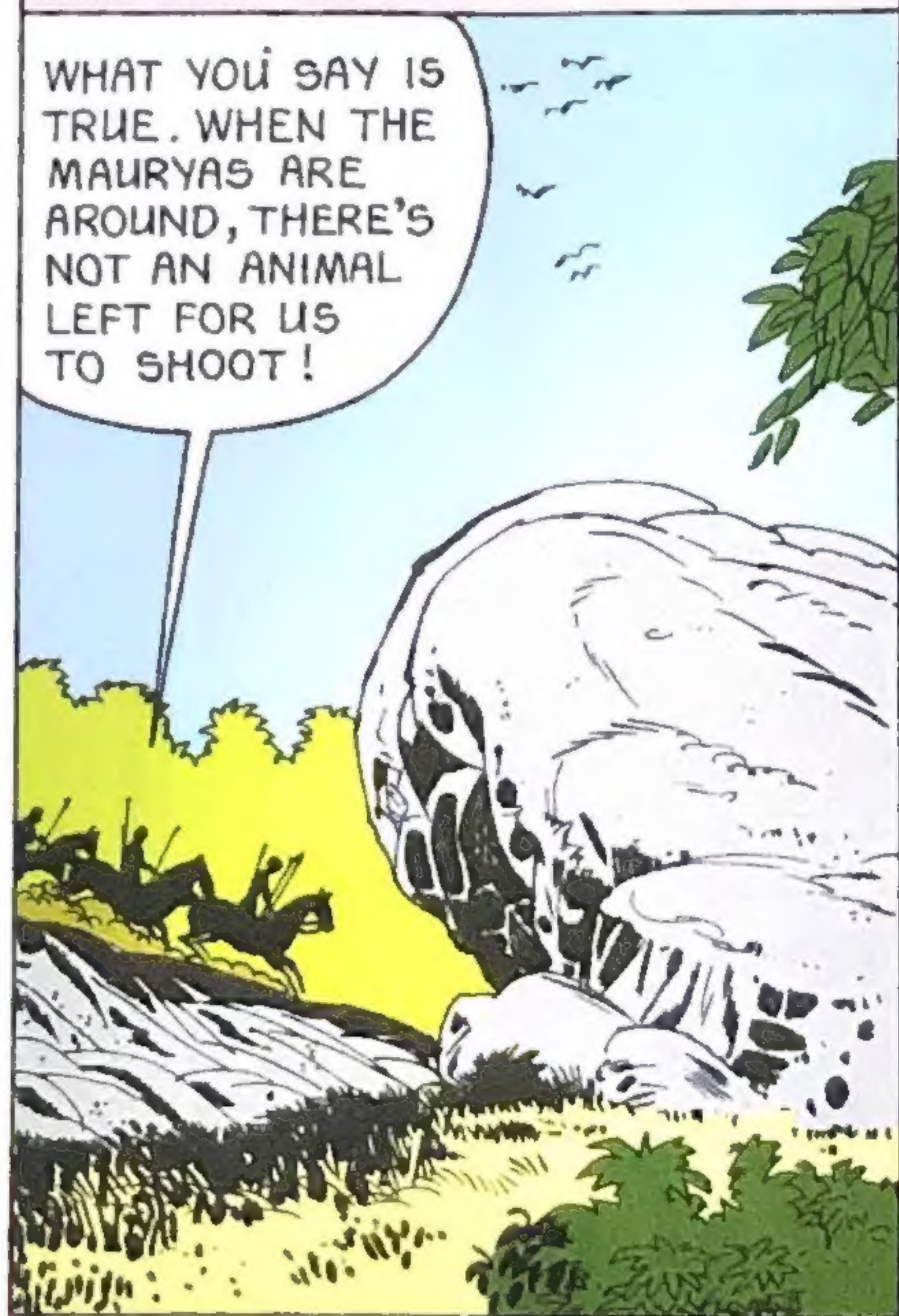
THAT WAS THE BEST HUNT WE'VE EVER HAD.

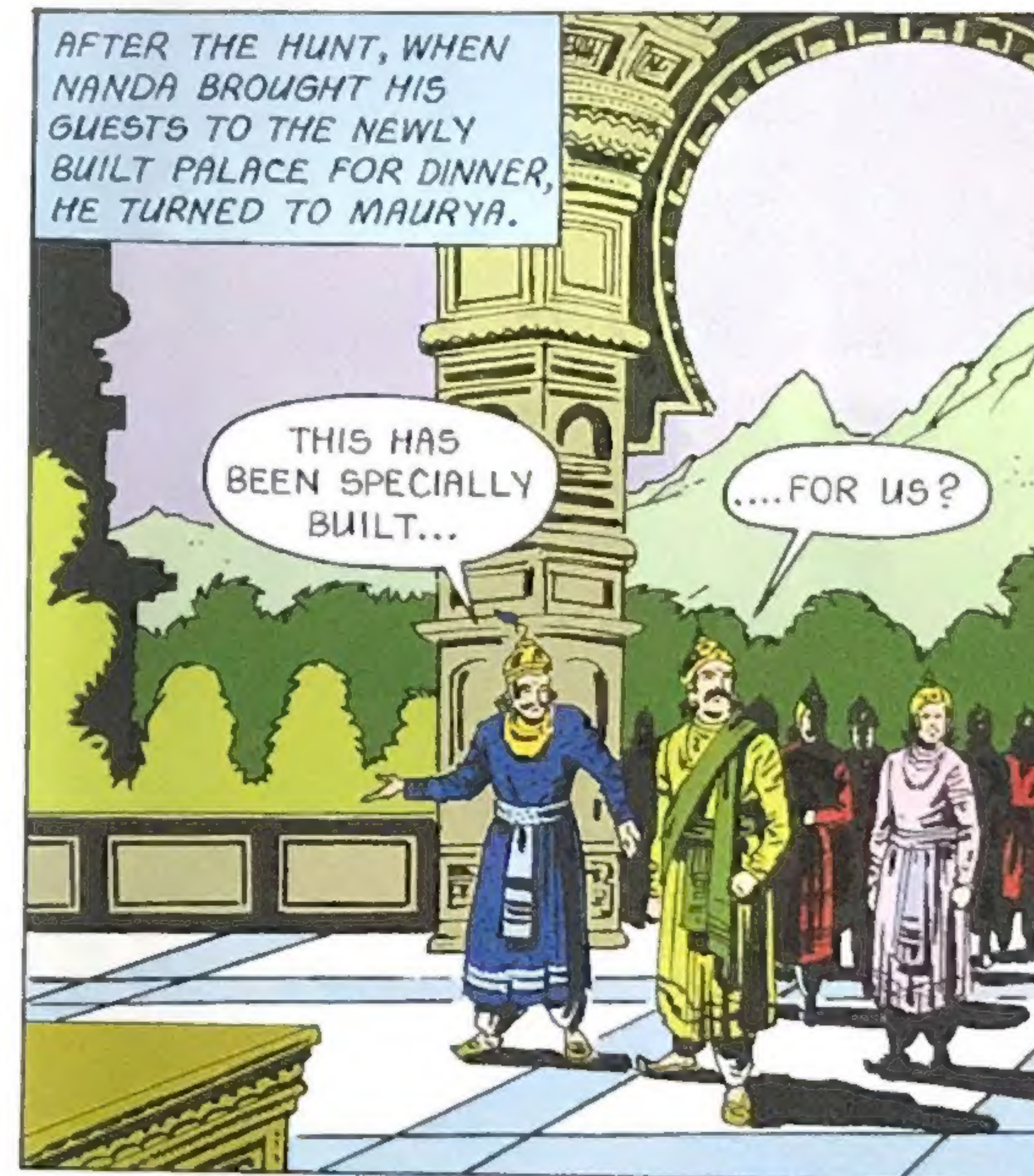
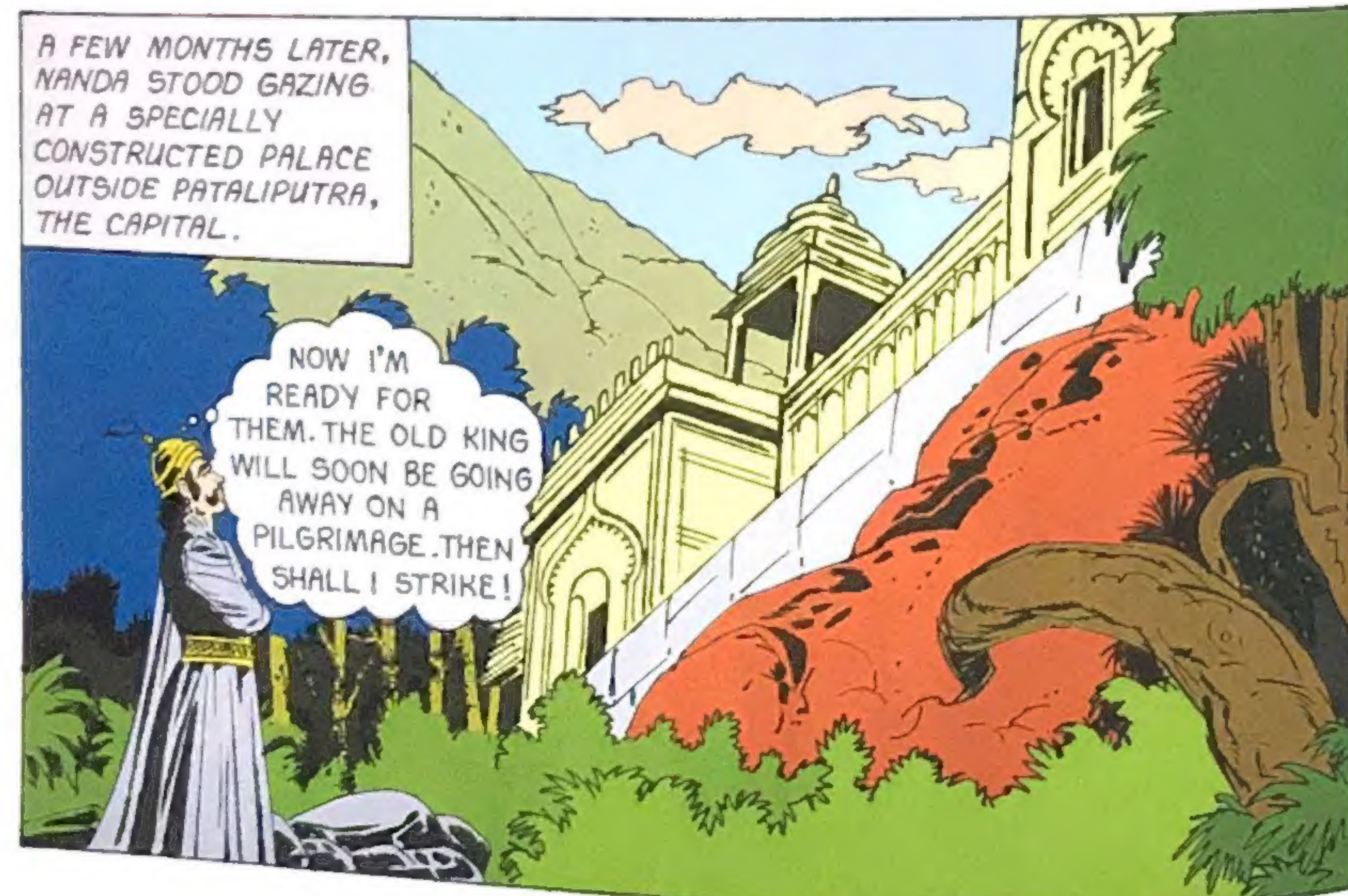
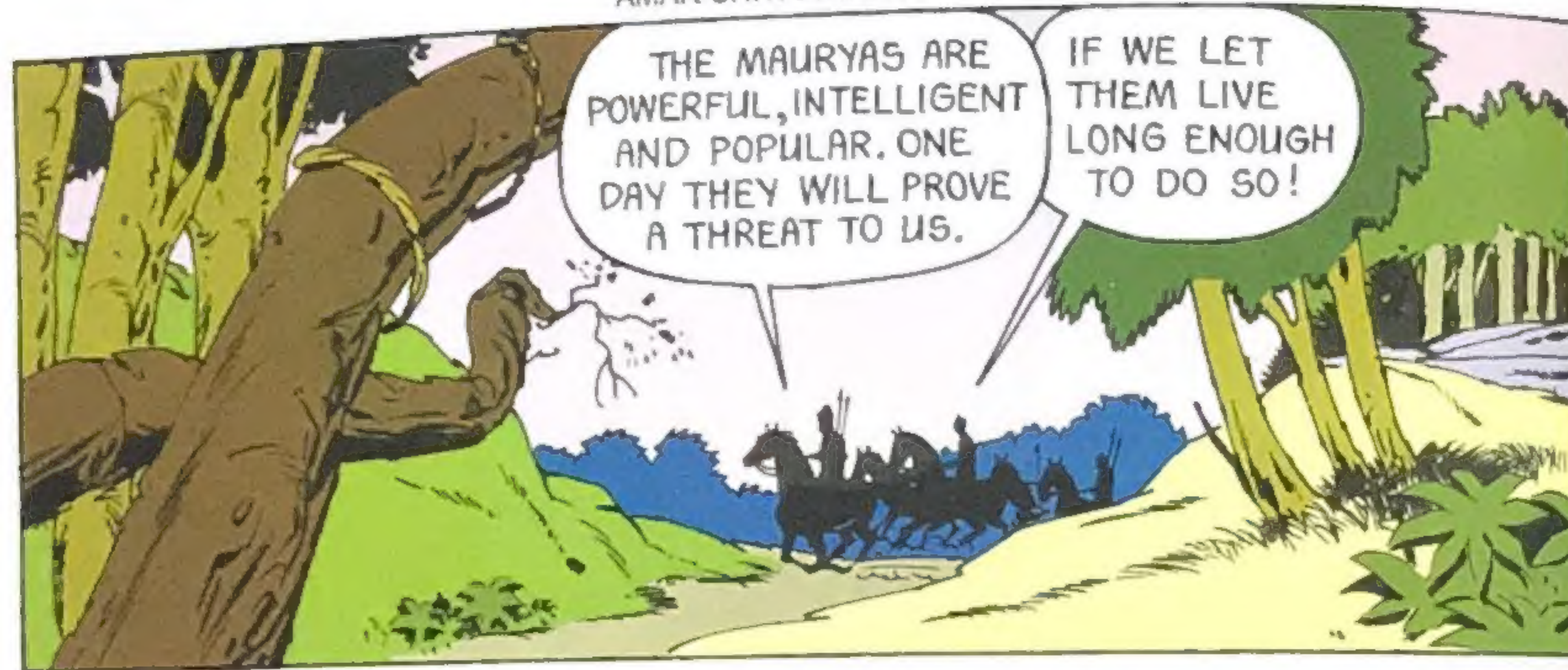
ONLY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T INVITE OUR COUSIN, MAURYA, AND HIS HUNDRED SONS TO JOIN US!

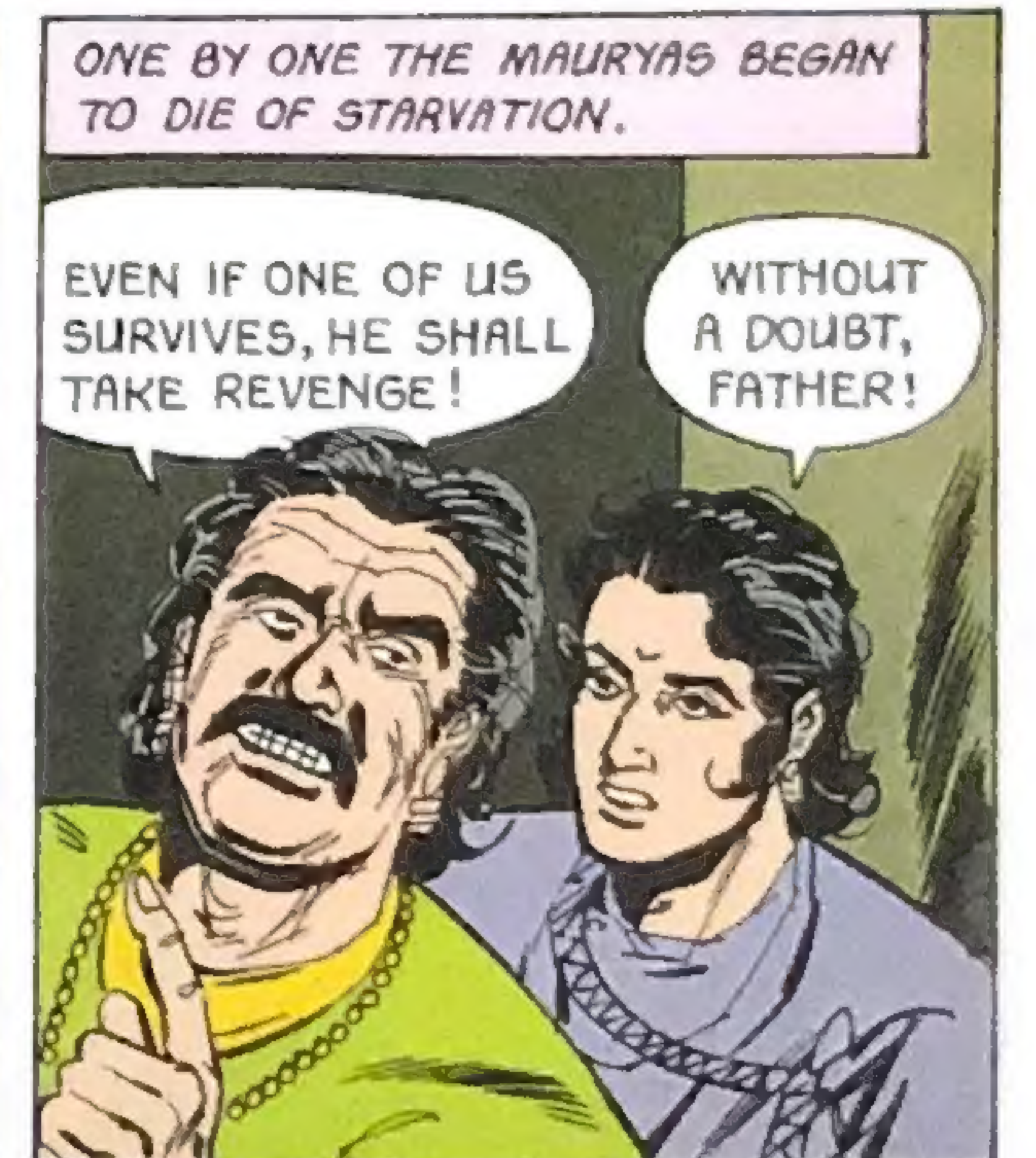


NOT THAT NANDA DIDN'T KNOW IT!

WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE. WHEN THE MAURYS ARE AROUND, THERE'S NOT AN ANIMAL LEFT FOR US TO SHOOT!







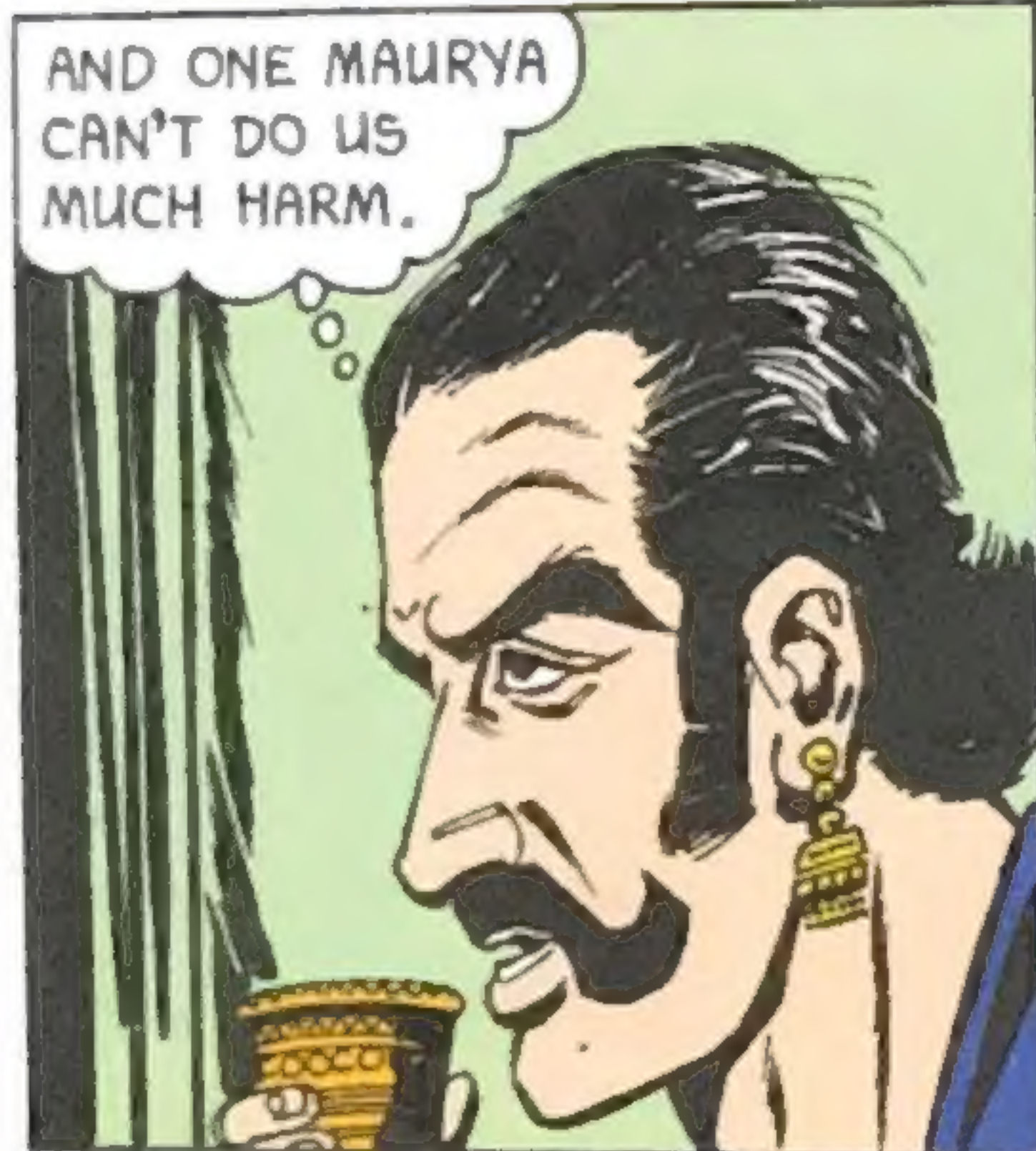
A FEW DAYS LATER, THE GUARDS REPORTED TO NANDA.



YOUR MAJESTY, ALL THE PRISONERS EXCEPT ONE HAVE DIED. THE PLACE IS REEKING.

THE STENCH MAY ATTRACT ATTENTION.

AND ONE MAURYA CAN'T DO US MUCH HARM.



TRANSFER THE LONE PRISONER TO THE STATE PRISON AND BURN DOWN THE PALACE.

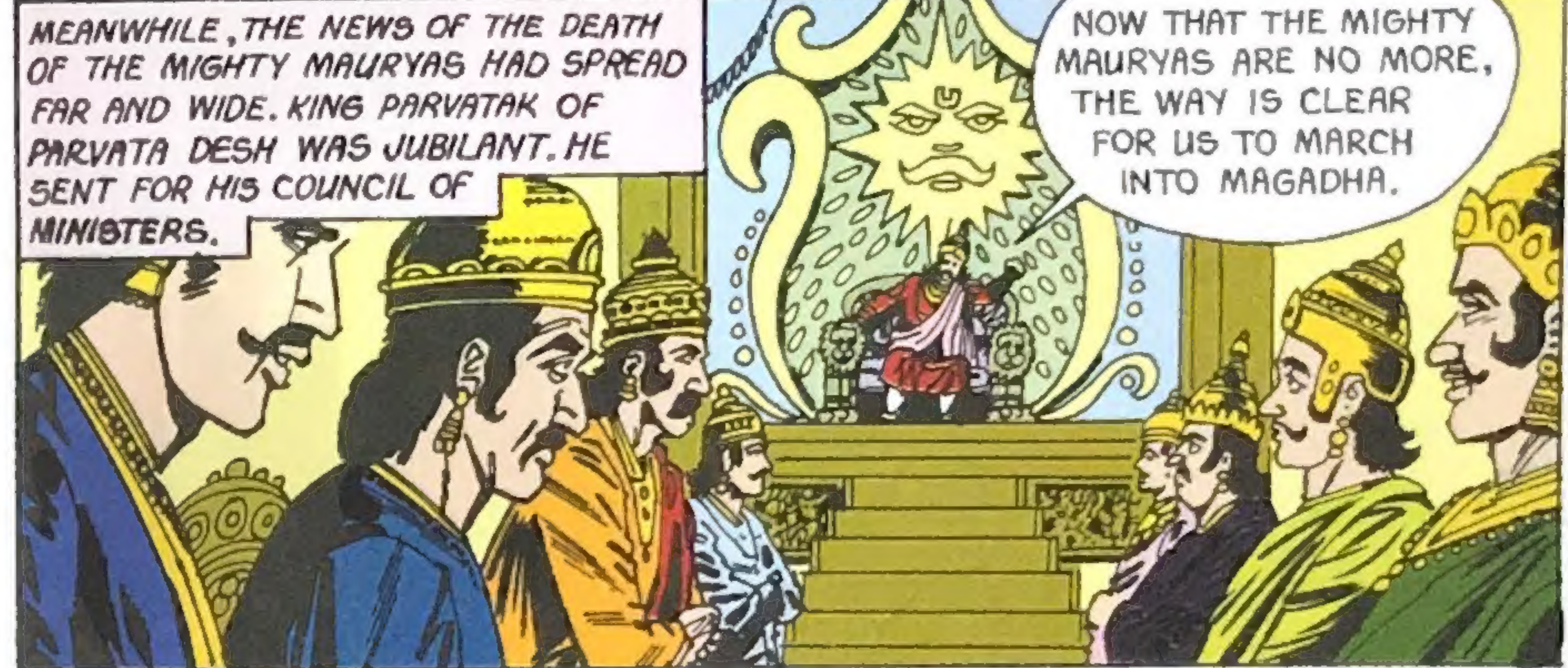


THE ORDER WAS CARRIED OUT. CHANDRAGUPTA, THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS LED AWAY TO THE STATE PRISON.



FATHER! BROTHERS! REST IN PEACE. I WILL AVENGE YOUR DEATH.

MEANWHILE, THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY MAURYS HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. KING PARVATAK OF PARVATA DESH WAS JUBILANT. HE SENT FOR HIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.



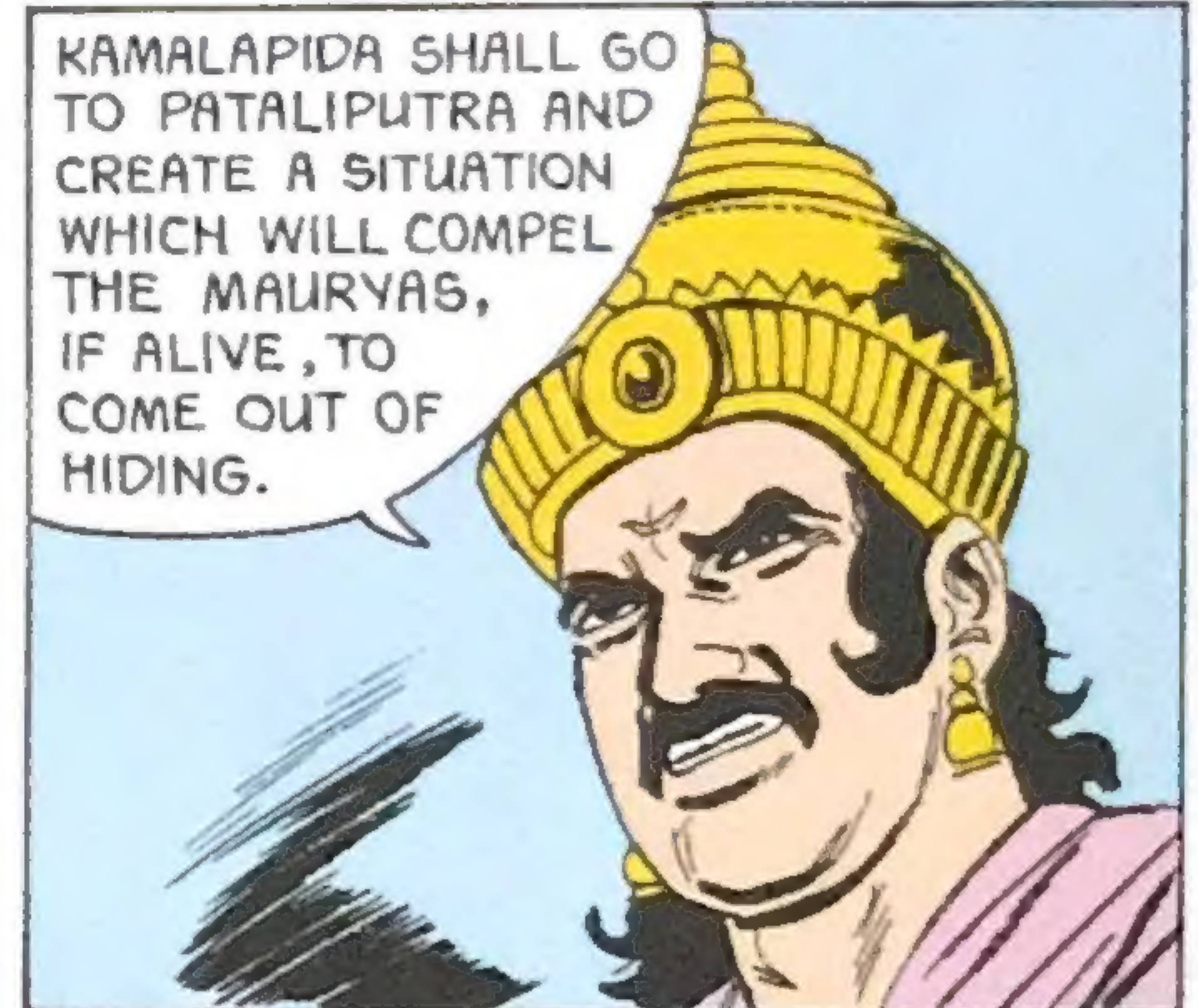
NOW THAT THE MIGHTY MAURYS ARE NO MORE, THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR US TO MARCH INTO MAGADHA.



MY LORD, SHOULDN'T WE FIRST MAKE SURE THAT THE MAURYS ARE REALLY DEAD?

YOU ARE RIGHT.

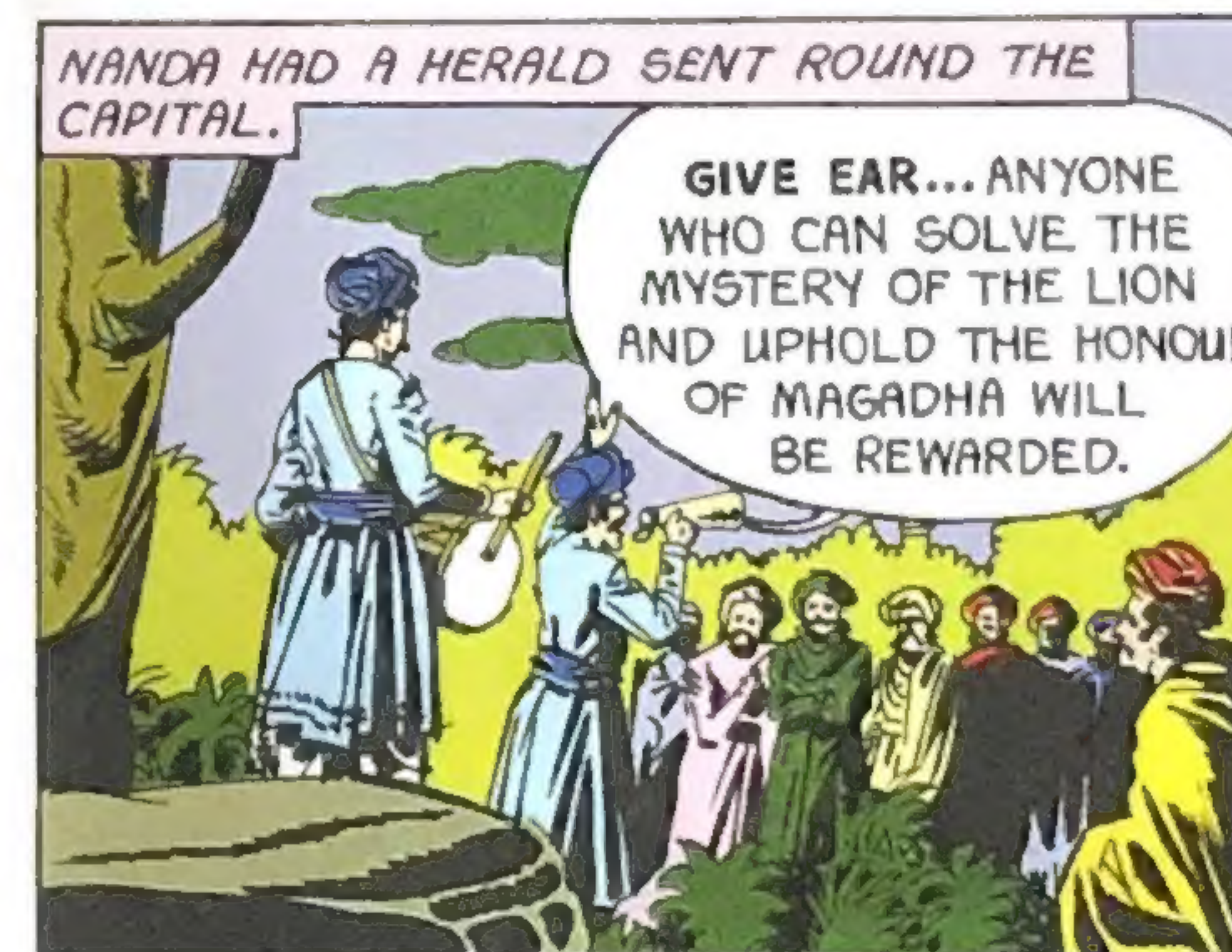
KAMALAPIDA SHALL GO TO PATALIPUTRA AND CREATE A SITUATION WHICH WILL COMPEL THE MAURYS, IF ALIVE, TO COME OUT OF HIDING.



KAMALAPIDA, PARVATAK'S TRUSTED SPY, CAME TO PATALIPUTRA, BRINGING WITH HIM A LION IN A CAGE.

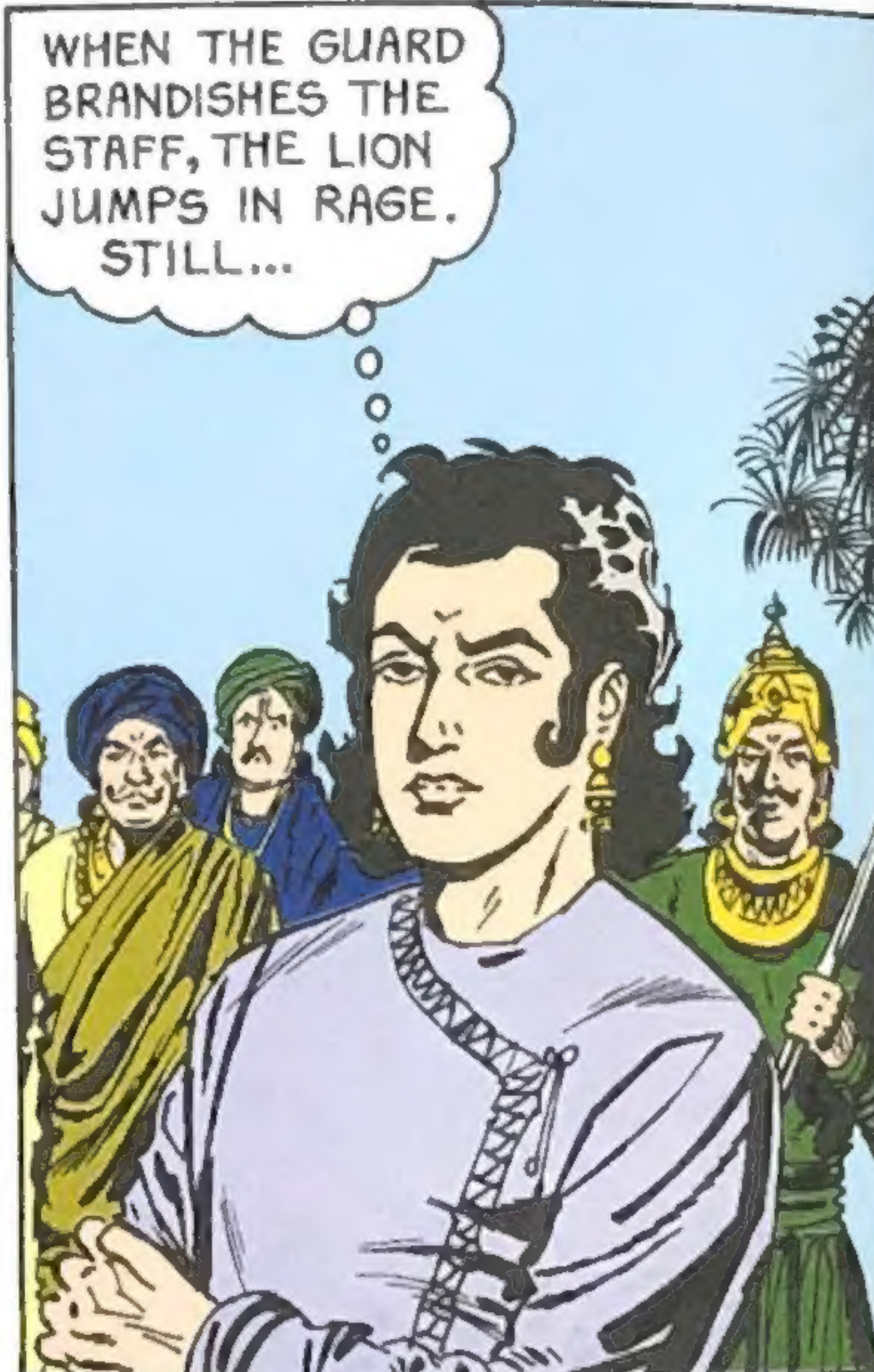


I CHALLENGE THE MEN OF MAGADHA TO SET THE LION FREE WITHOUT BREAKING OPEN THE CAGE.

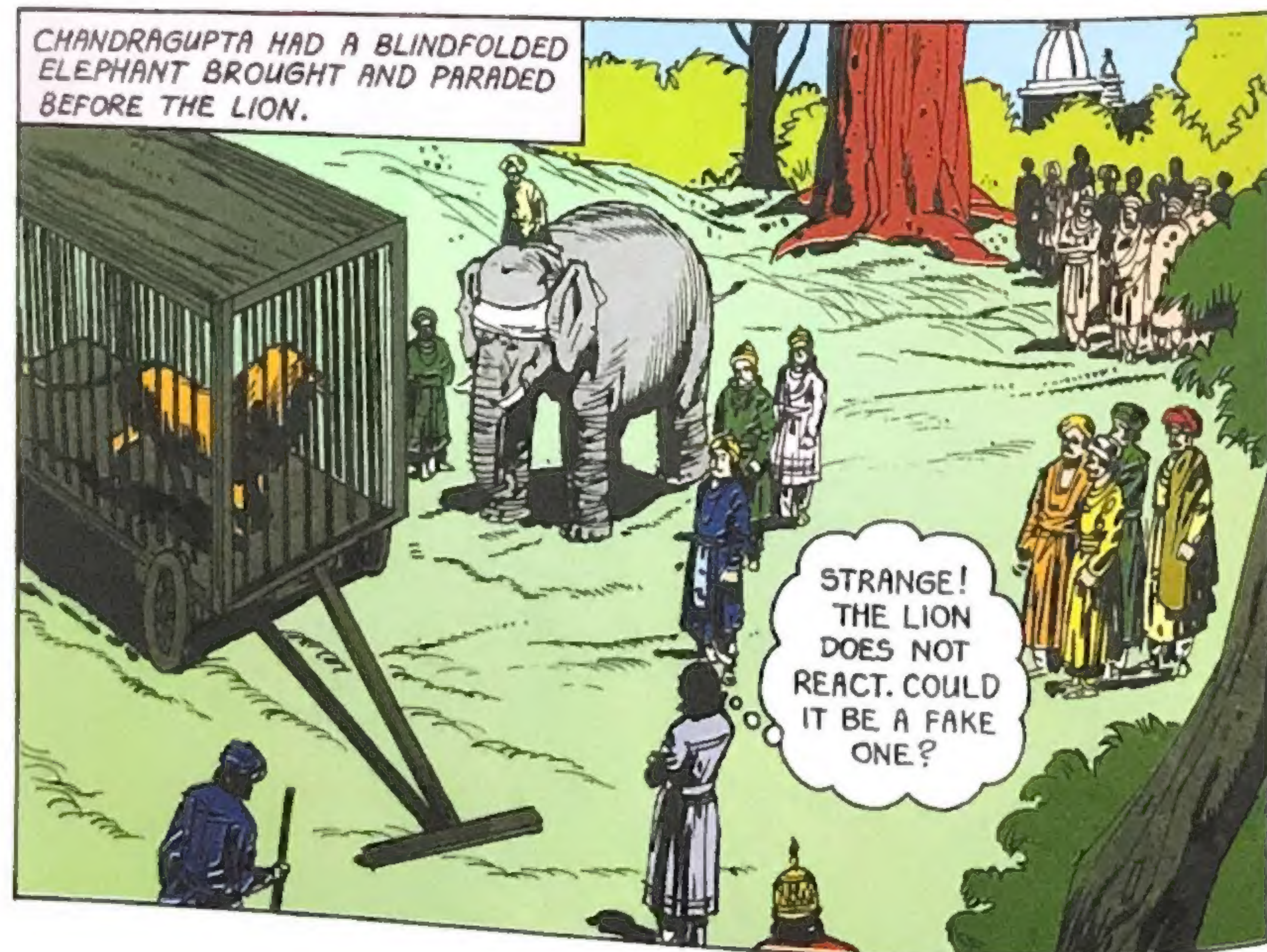




CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A GOOD LOOK AT THE LION.



WHEN THE GUARD BRANDISHES THE STAFF, THE LION JUMPS IN RAGE. STILL...



CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A BLINDFOLDED ELEPHANT BROUGHT AND PARADED BEFORE THE LION.

STRANGE! THE LION DOES NOT REACT. COULD IT BE A FAKE ONE?



NEXT, CHANDRAGUPTA HAD SOME MEAT BROUGHT FROM THE PALACE KITCHEN WHICH HE OFFERED TO THE LION.

WHY DOESN'T THE LION REACH FOR THE MEAT?



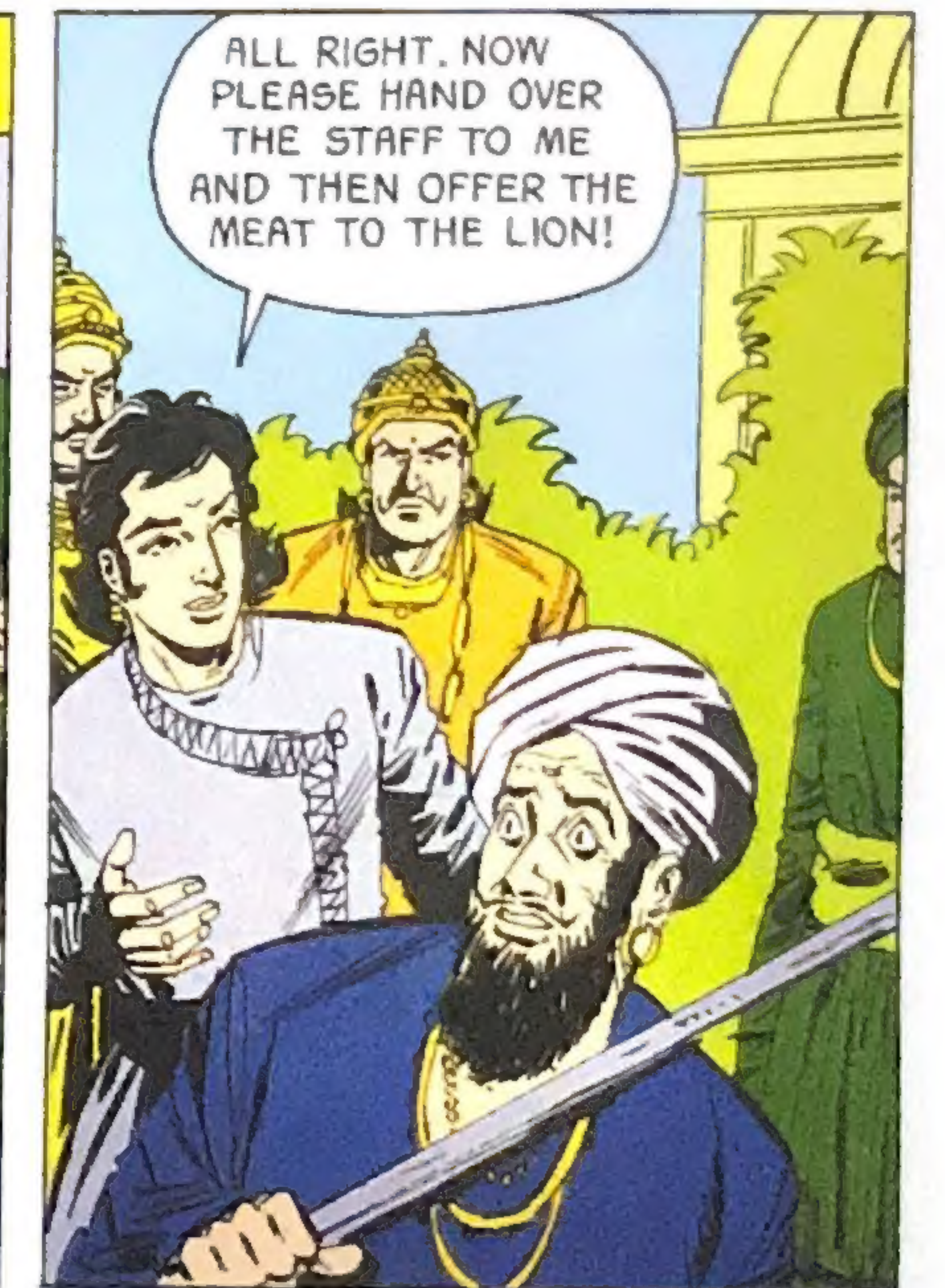
IT IS TRAINED NOT TO ACCEPT FOOD FROM STRANGERS. LET ME OFFER THE MEAT.



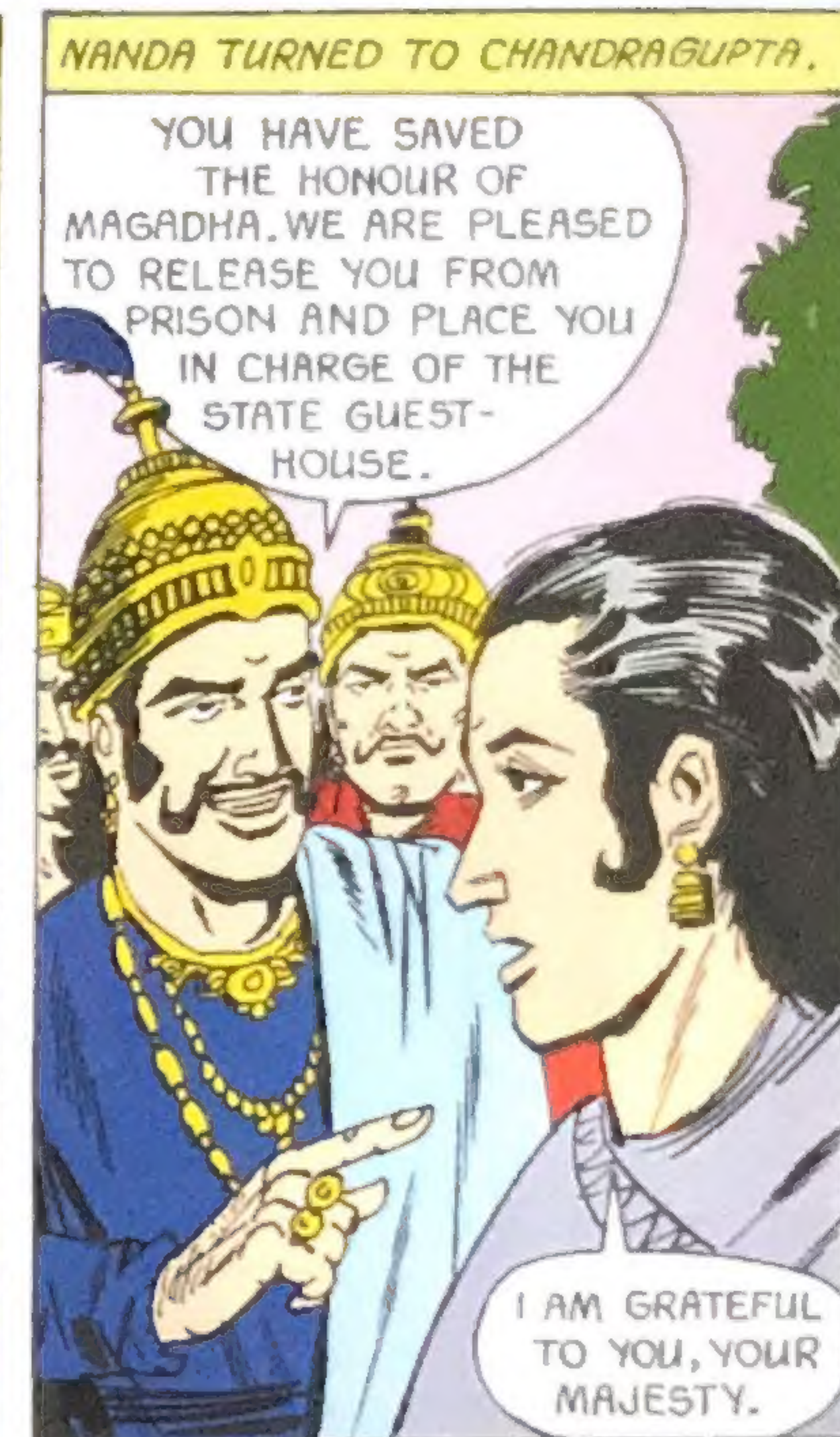
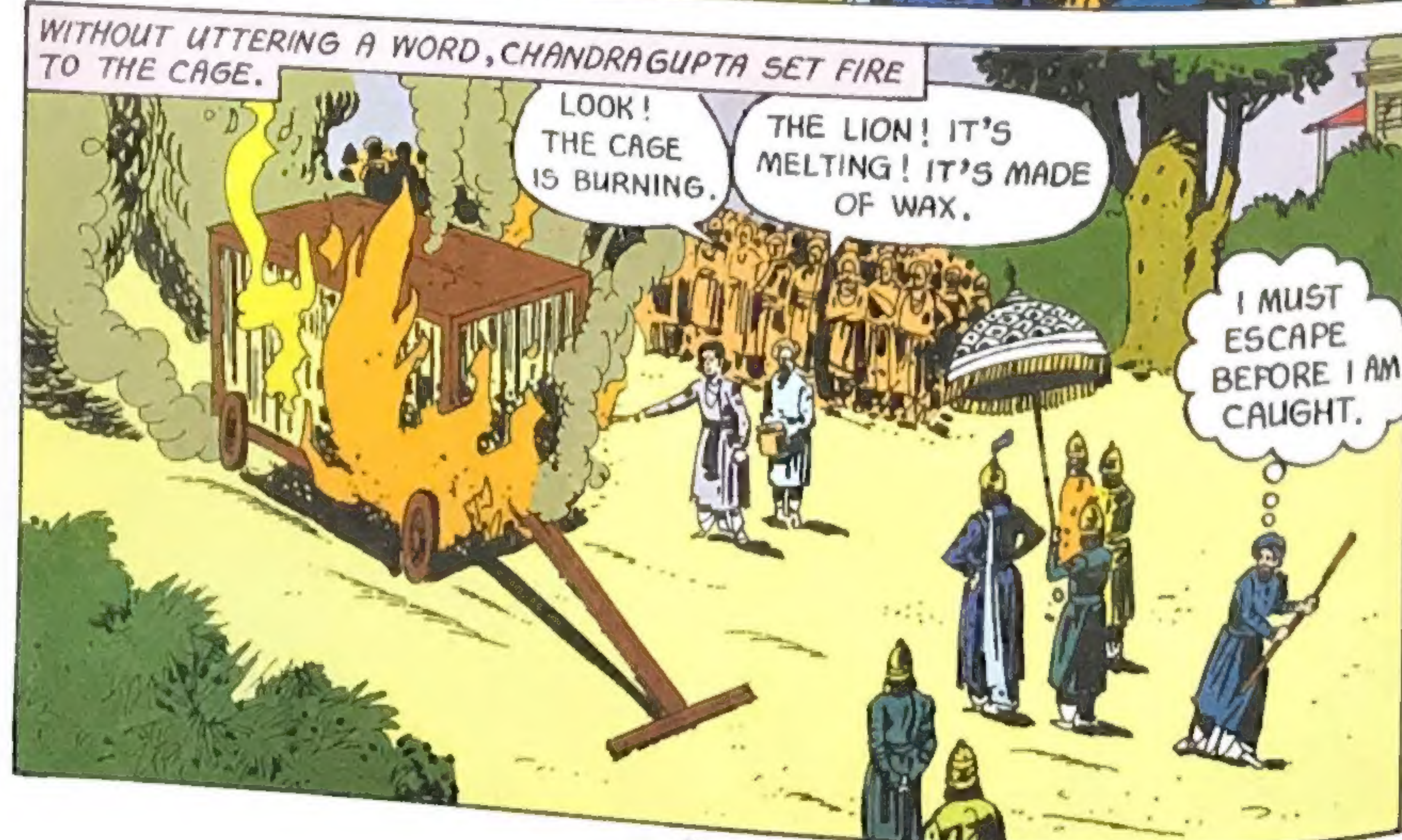
WHEN THE GUARD OFFERED THE MEAT, THE LION RUSHED FORWARD.

SEE?

INDEED I DO!



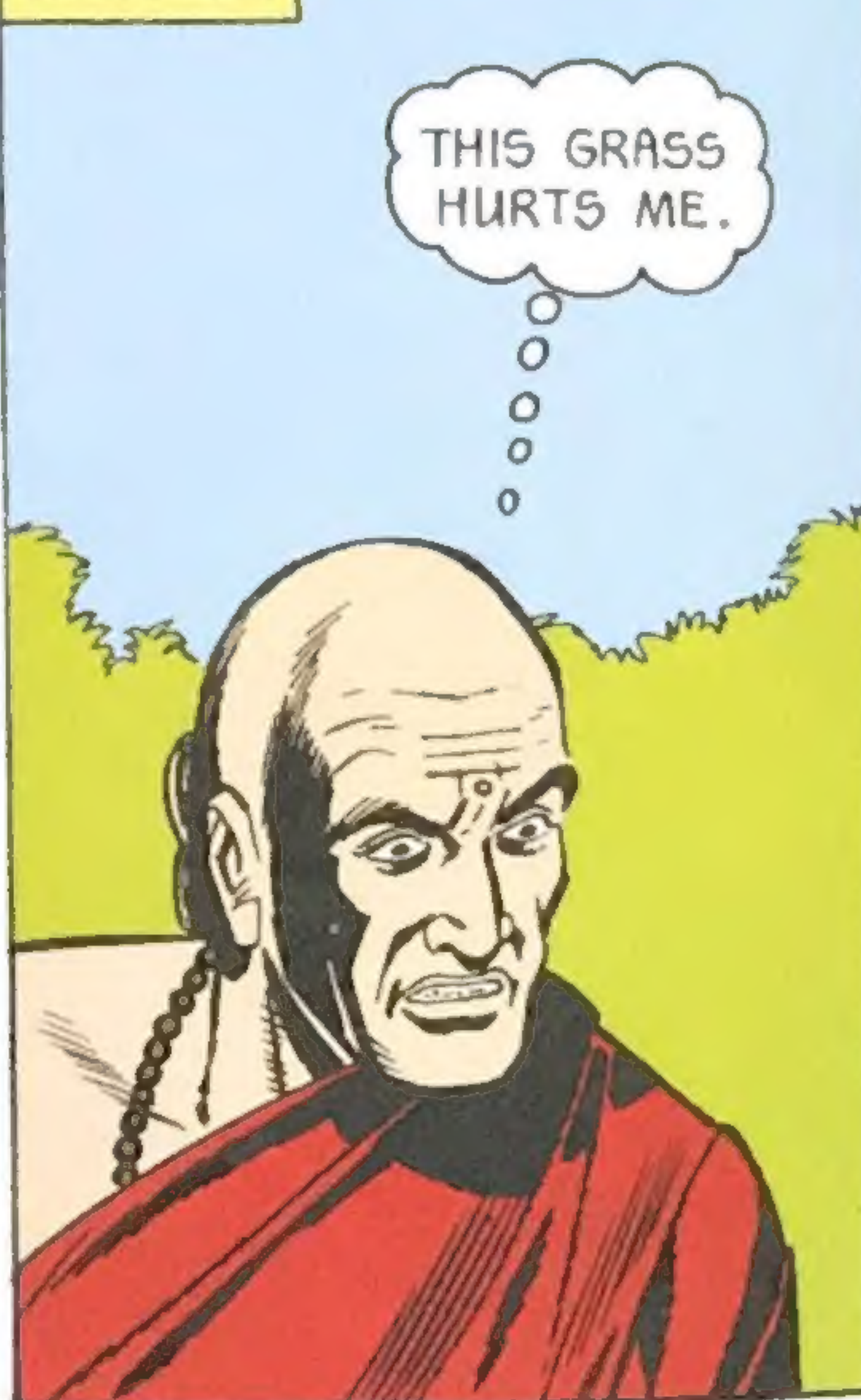
ALL RIGHT. NOW PLEASE HAND OVER THE STAFF TO ME AND THEN OFFER THE MEAT TO THE LION!



BUT NANDA WAS WRONG. CHANDRAGUPTA TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIS GUESTS. ONE AFTERNOON, HE SAW A BRAHMAN APPROACHING THE GUEST-HOUSE.



SUDDENLY, THE BRAHMAN STOPPED.



THIS GRASS HURTS ME.

HE SAT DOWN TO PULL OUT THE GRASS...



...AND RESUMED HIS JOURNEY ONLY AFTER HE HAD UPROOTED ALL THE GRASS IN HIS PATH.

HE SEEMS TO BE A MAN OF DETERMINATION. HIS SUPPORT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME.



HE RAN UP TO THE BRAHMAN.

REVERED ONE, PLEASE HAVE DINNER AT THE GUEST-HOUSE BEFORE YOU PROCEED.

IT IS VERY KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME.



YOUNG MAN, YOU LOOK NOBLE. HOW DID YOU COME TO OCCUPY SUCH A LOWLY OFFICE?

IT IS A LONG STORY, SIR.



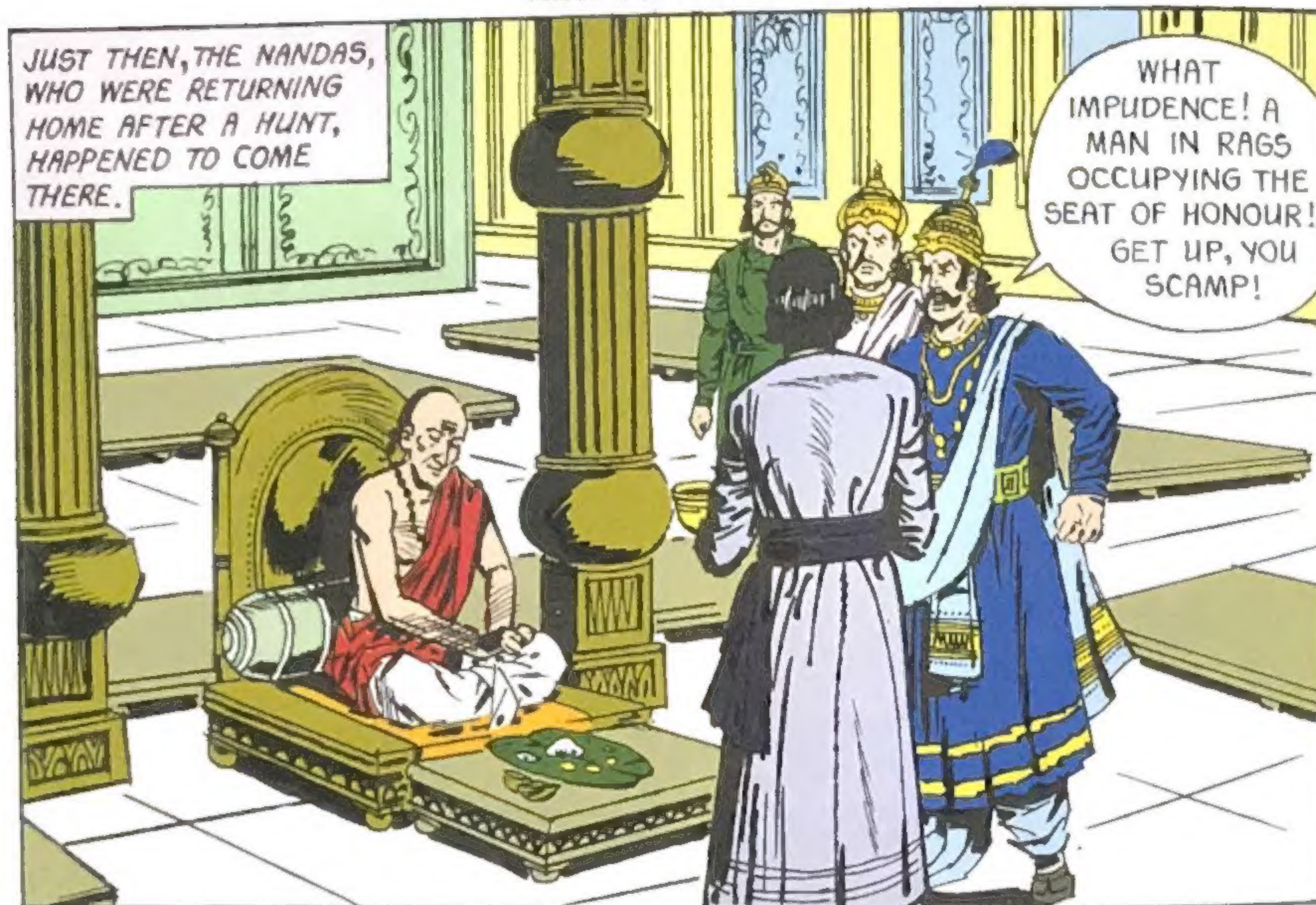
WHEN CHANDRAGUPTA TOLD HIM ALL—

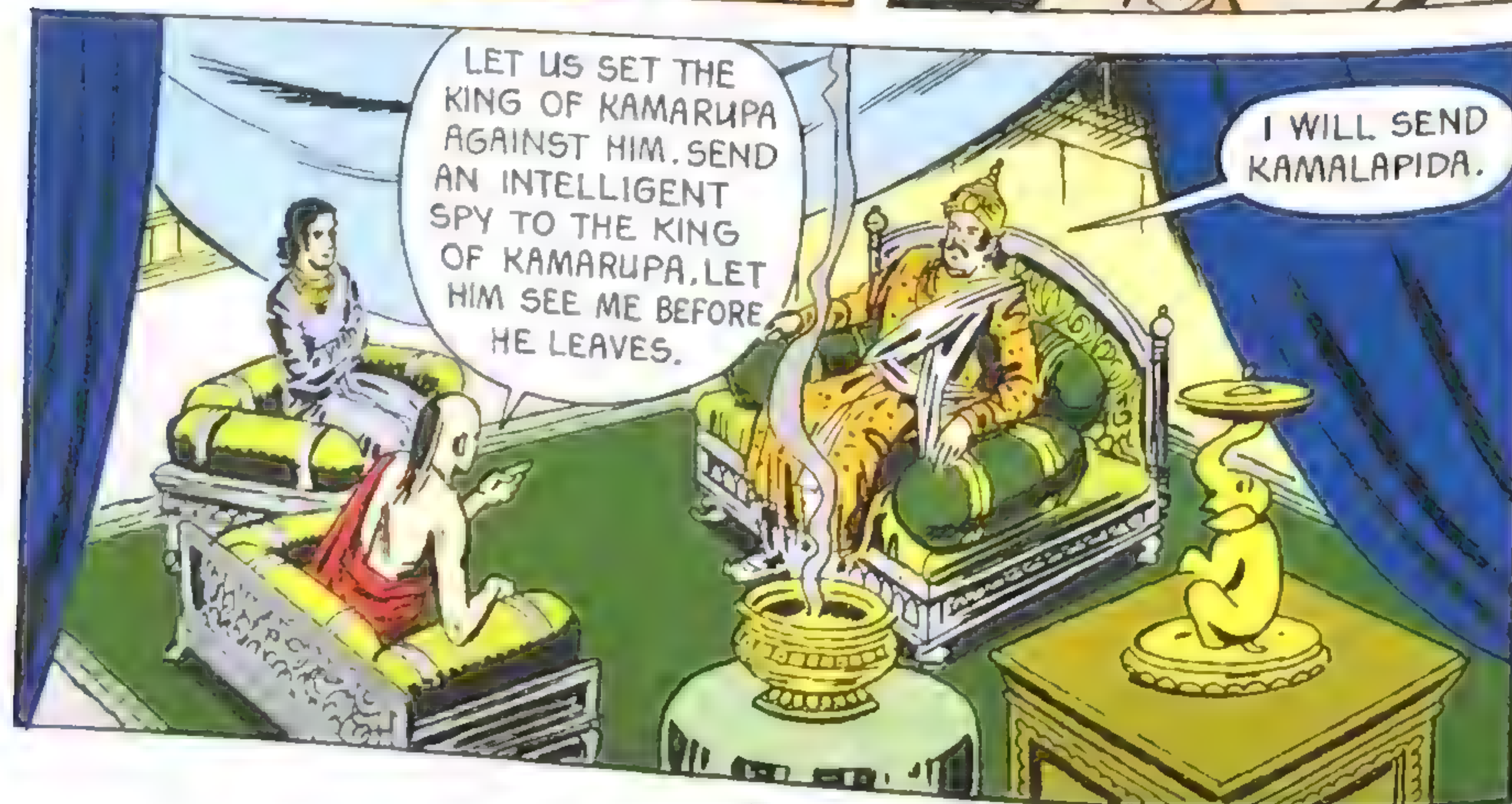
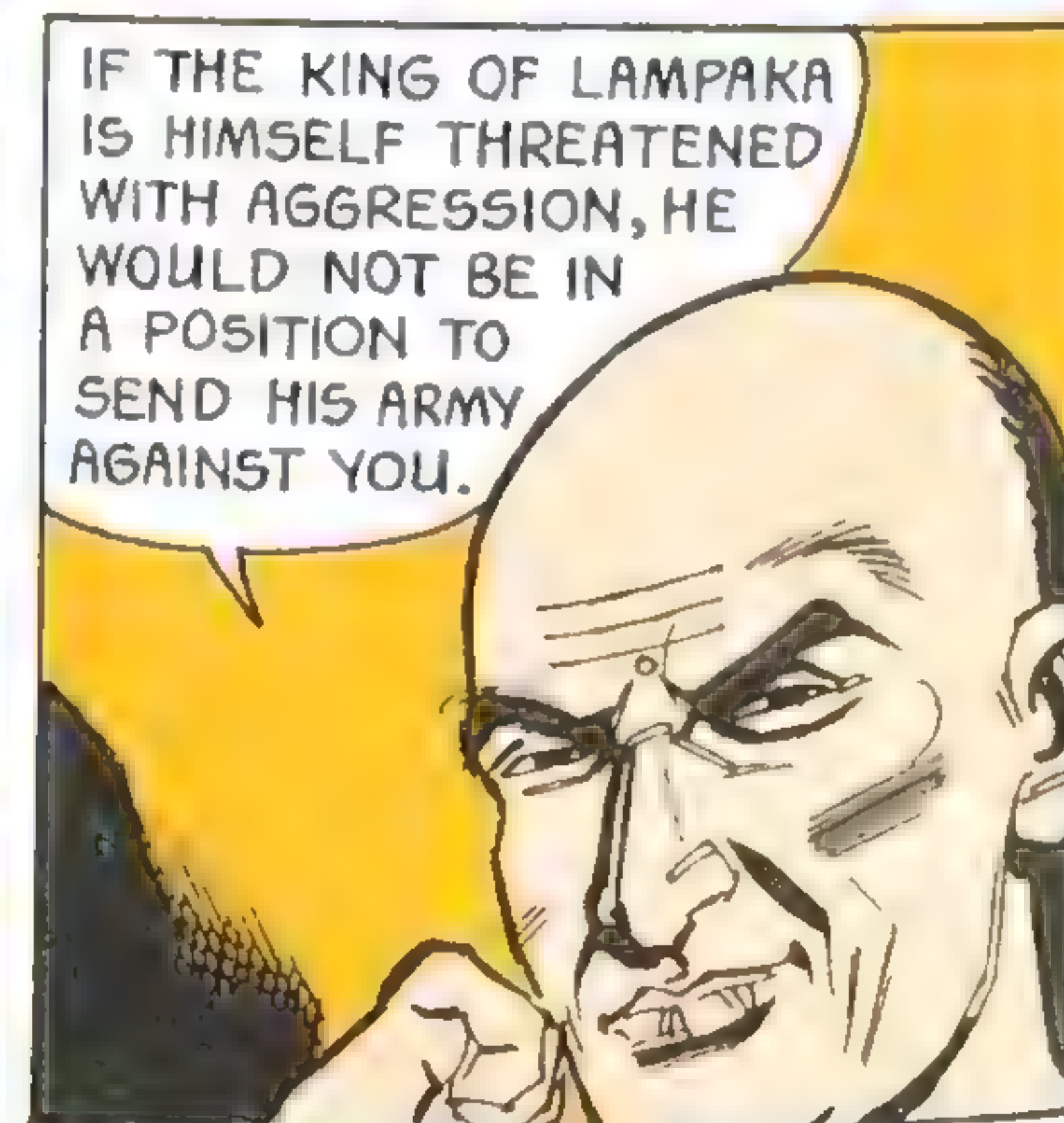
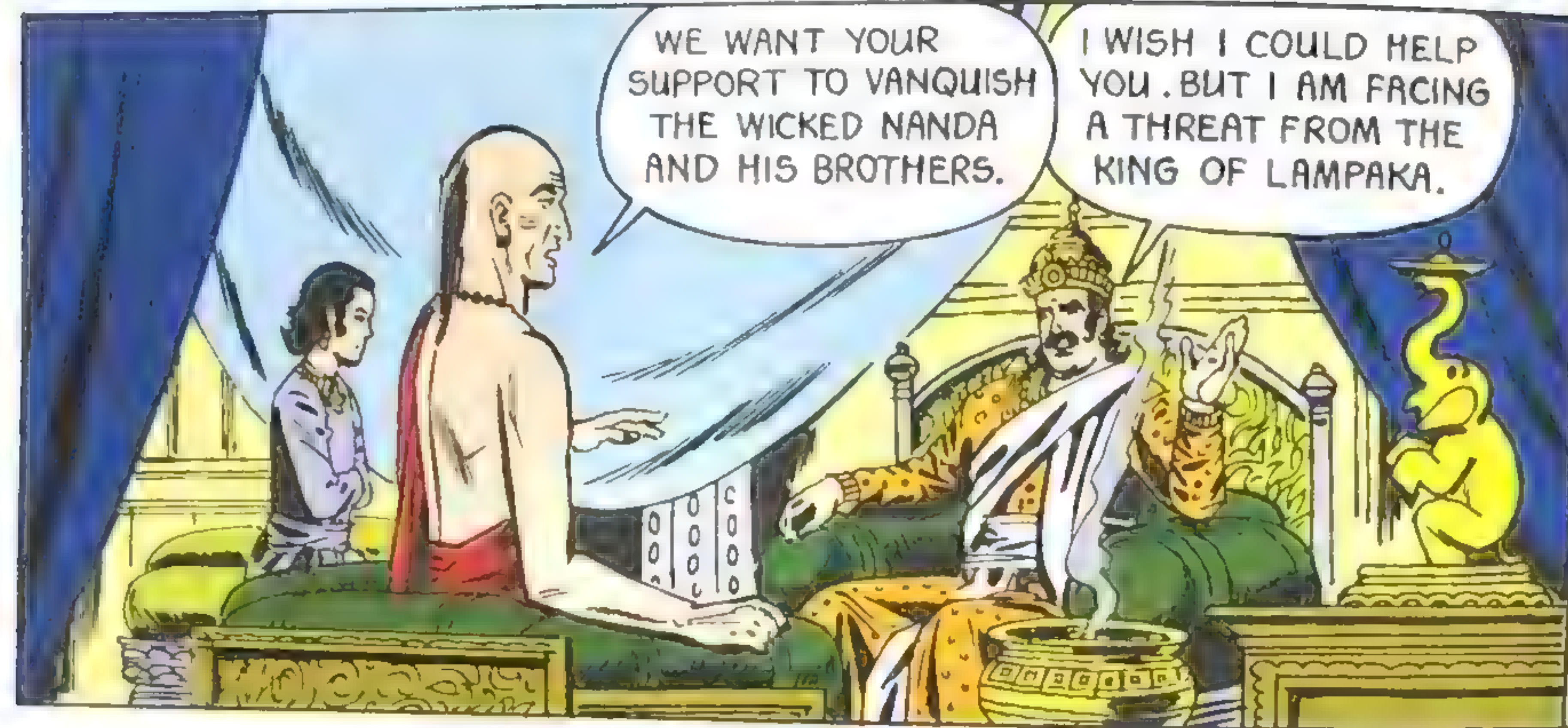


DON'T WORRY, CHANDRAGUPTA. I, CHANAKYA, WILL HELP YOU AVENGE THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER AND BROTHERS.

AT THE GUEST-HOUSE, CHANDRAGUPTA OFFERED A SEAT OF HONOUR TO CHANAKYA AND SERVED HIM PERSONALLY.







INSTRUCTED BY CHANAKYA, KAMALAPIDA AND HIS COMPANION LEFT FOR THE KINGDOM OF KAMARUPA. WHEN THEY REACHED THE GARDEN AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL—

WAIT HERE, AND COME TO THE ROYAL COURT AFTER SOME TIME. AND DON'T FORGET CHANAKYA'S INSTRUCTIONS.

I WON'T, KAMALAPIDA.



KAMALAPIDA SOON REACHED THE COURT OF THE KING OF KAMARUPA.

YOUR MAJESTY, I'VE BROUGHT A PROPOSAL FROM OUR KING, PARVATAK. HE REQUESTS YOU TO GIVE YOUR PRINCESS IN MARRIAGE TO OUR PRINCE, MALAYAKETU.



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS PROPOSAL. WE WILL...



JUST THEN, KAMALAPIDA'S COMPANION ENTERED.

EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY. I HAVE AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR KAMALAPIDA, THE ENVOY OF KING PARVATAK.



WHEN KAMALAPIDA READ THE MESSAGE, HE TURNED PALE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NO BAD NEWS,
I HOPE.



YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS ABOUT
THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.
HE WANTS... NO! I CAN'T.
PARDON ME.



OVERCOME BY CURIOSITY, THE KING
ORDERED HIS MINISTER TO TAKE THE
LETTER FROM KAMALAPIDA AND READ
IT ALOUD.

...IT IS REPORTED THAT
THE KING OF LAMPAKA
OPENLY CALLED THE
LORD OF KAMARUPA A
MAN OF LOW ORIGIN
SINCE ONE OF HIS
ANCESTORS HAD
MARRIED A
COMMONER...



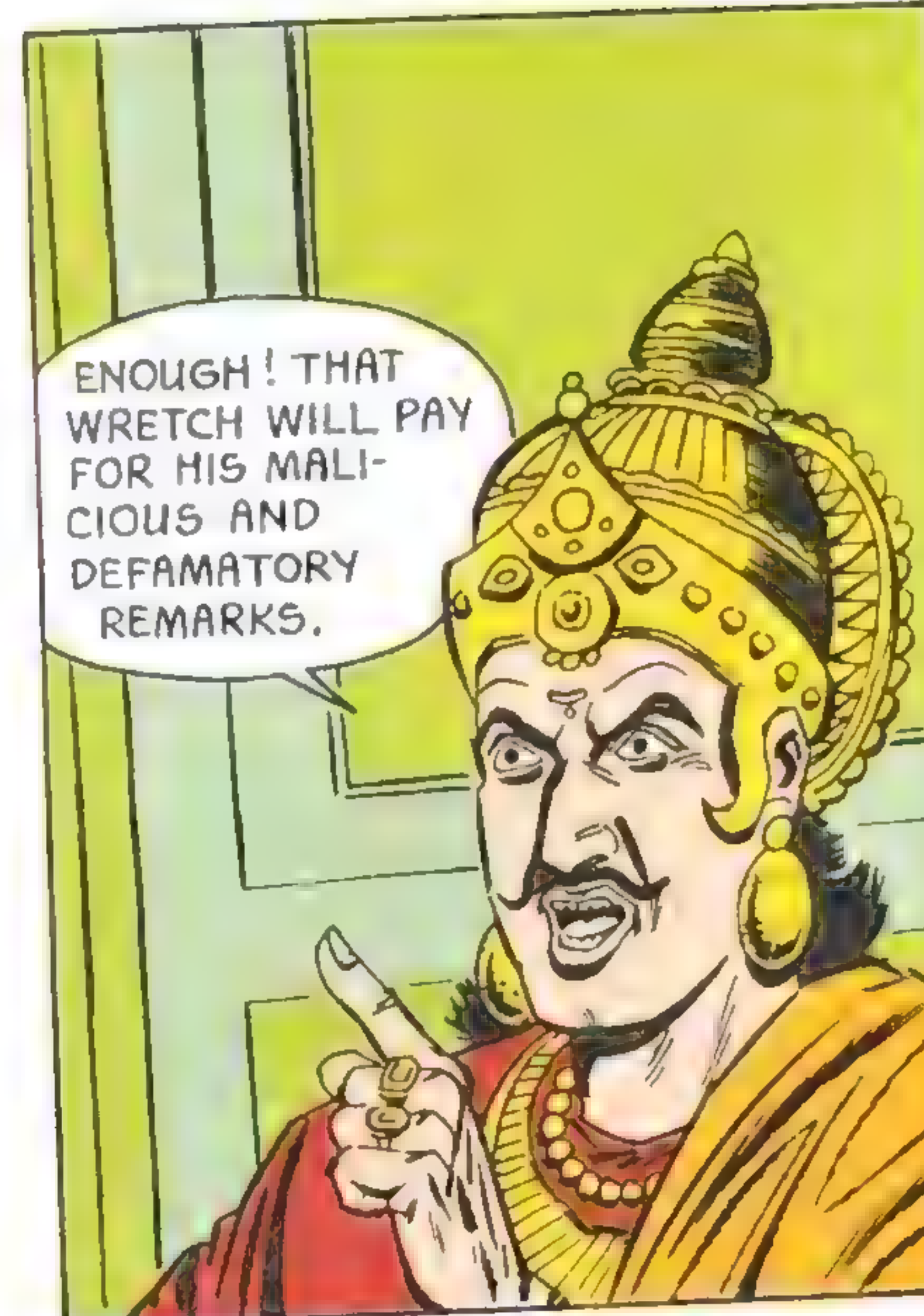
...I HOLD THE LORD
OF KAMARUPA IN HIGH
ESTEEM, AND YET, IN
THE LIGHT OF THE
REMARKS MADE
BY THE KING OF
LAMPAKA...



THEN HE TURNED TO
KAMALAPIDA.

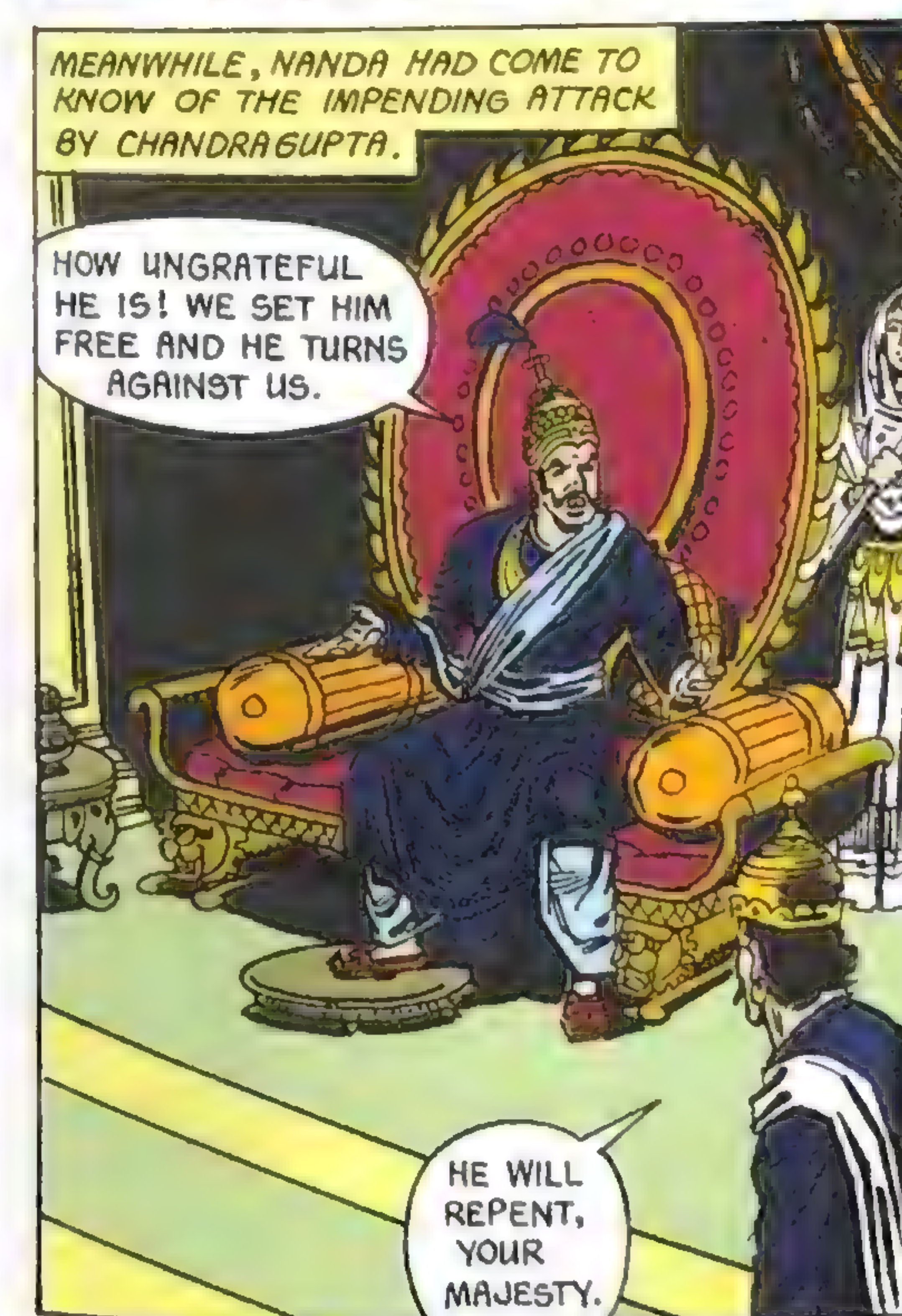
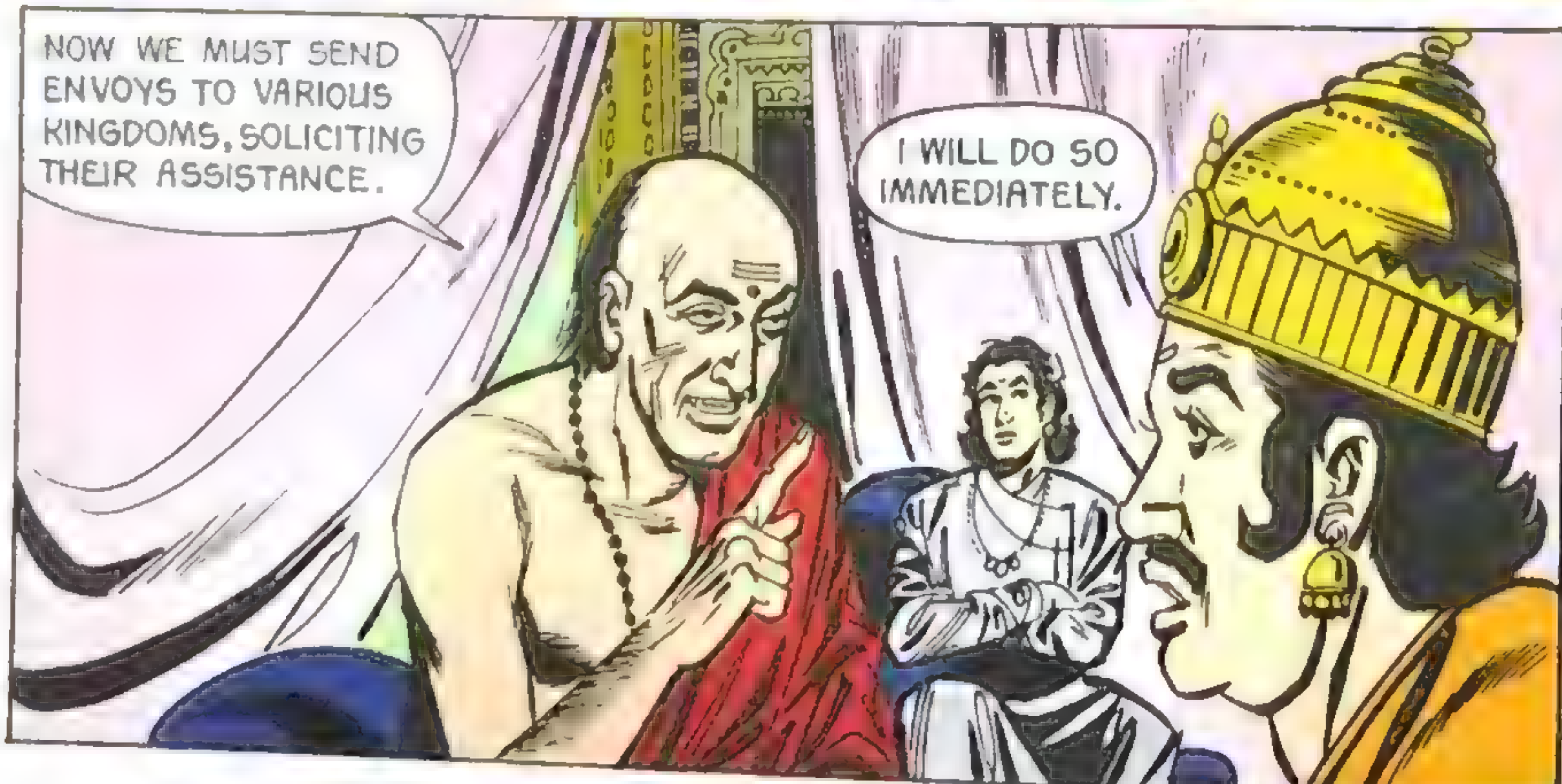
GO BACK TO YOUR
LORD AND TELL HIM
THAT I WILL RESPOND
TO HIS PROPOSAL ONLY
AFTER THE KING
OF LAMPAKA IS
VANQUISHED.

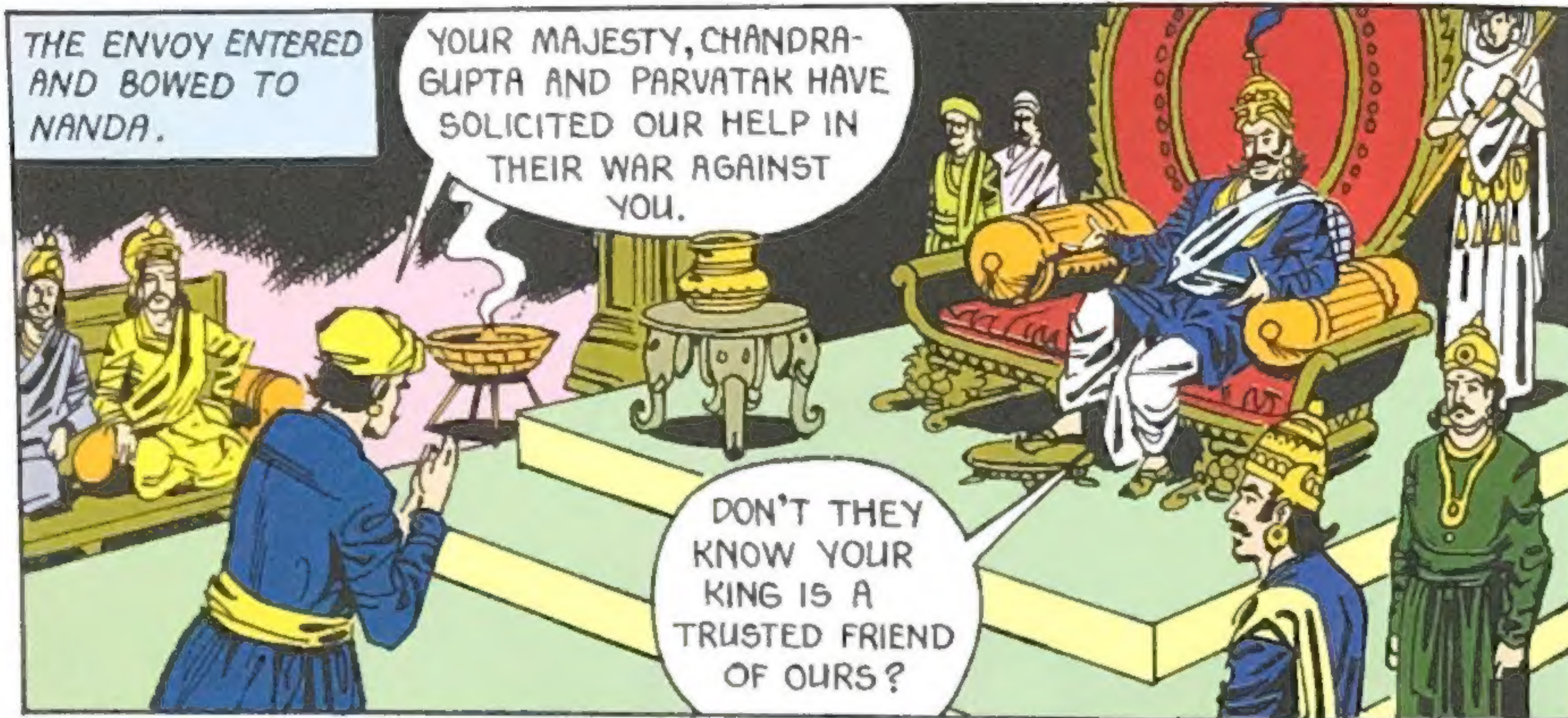
ENOUGH! THAT
WRETCH WILL PAY
FOR HIS MALI-
CIOUS AND
DEFAMATORY
REMARKS.

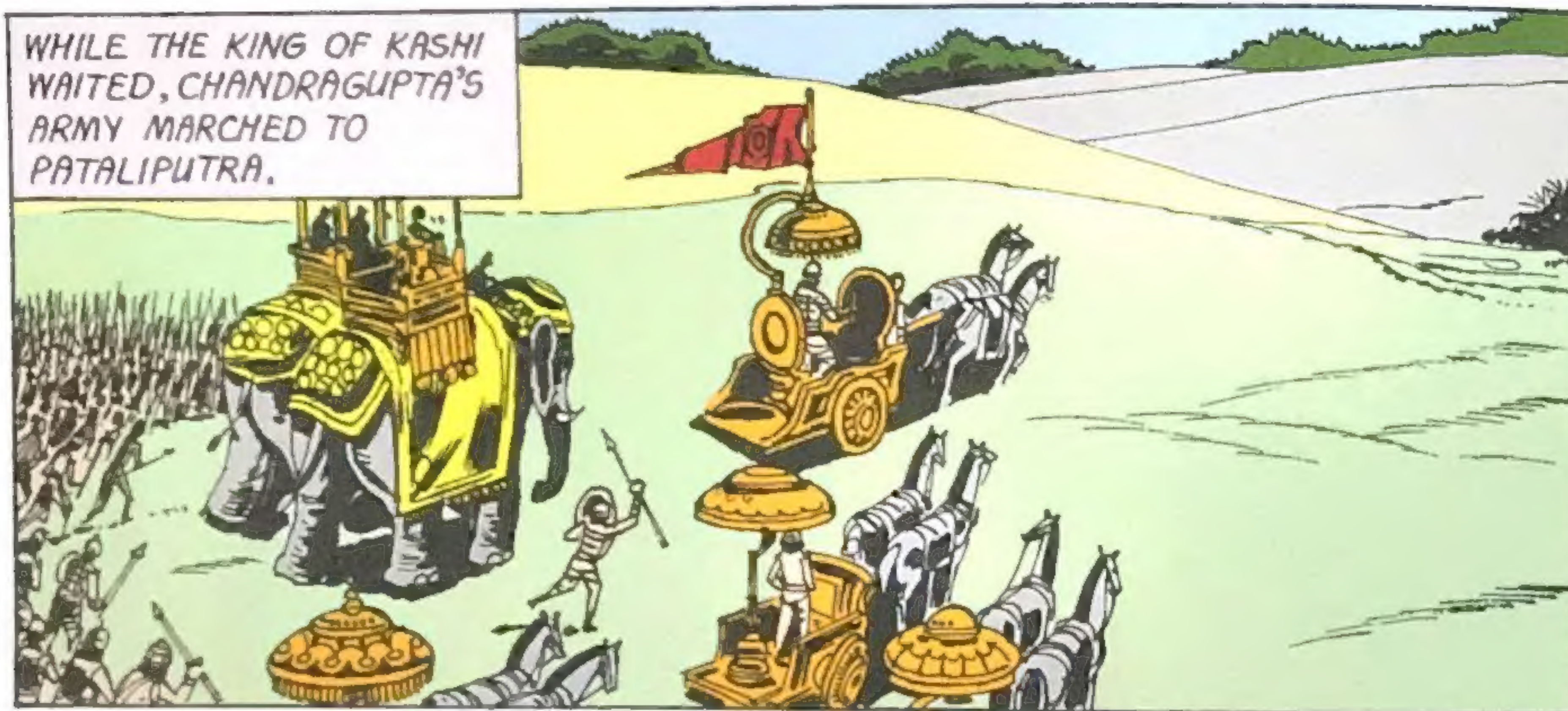


AS KAMALAPIDA AND HIS COMPANION LEFT FOR THEIR
KINGDOM, THEY SAW KAMARUPA'S ARMY MARCHING
TOWARDS THE KINGDOM OF LAMPAKA.

CHANKYA'S PLAN
HAS SUCCEEDED!
THE KING OF
LAMPAKA WILL BE
KEPT BUSY.







WHILE THE KING OF KASHI WAITED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S ARMY MARCHED TO PATALIPUTRA.



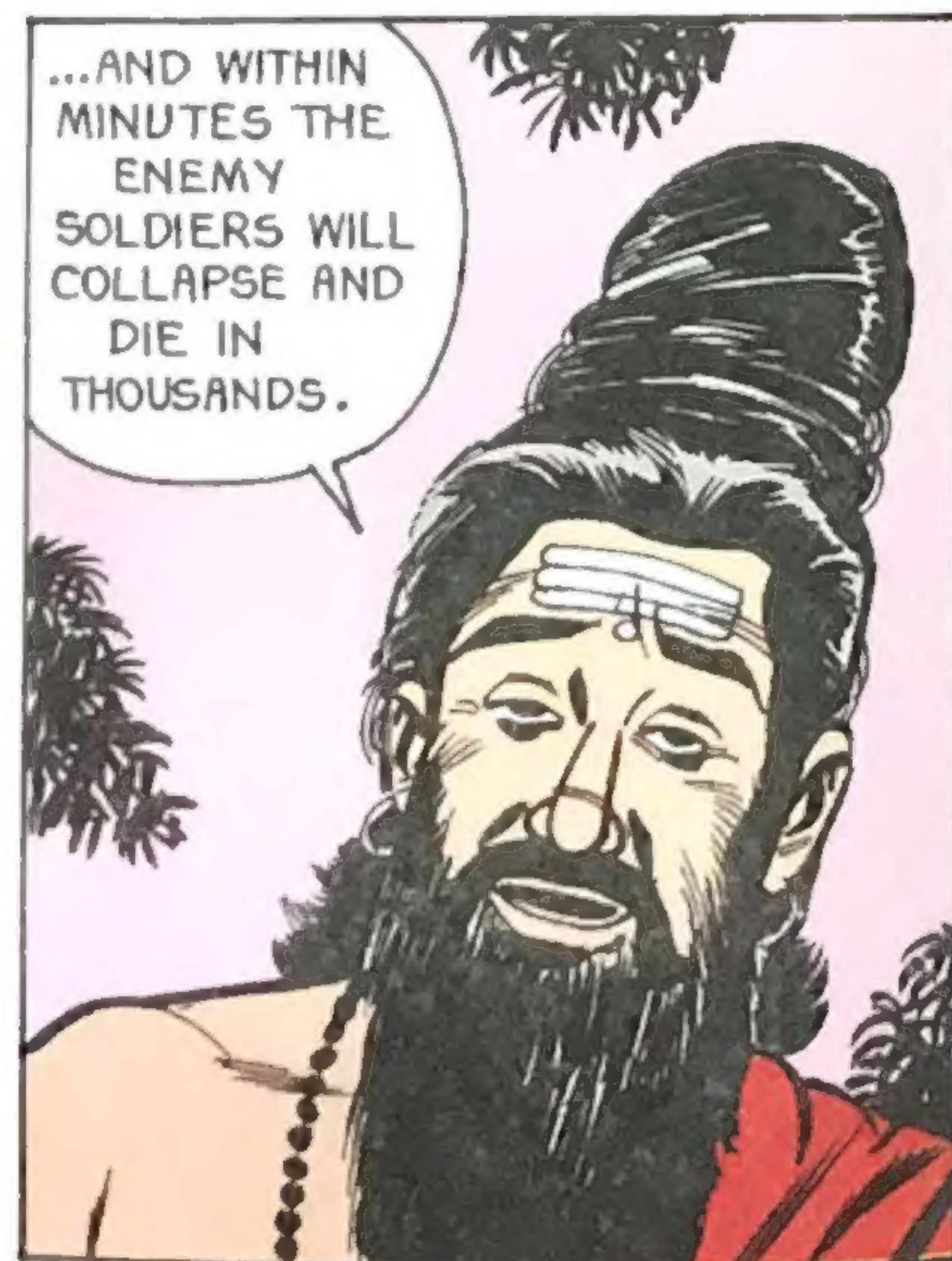
NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS LEFT FOR THE BATTLE-FIELD. ON THE WAY—

ISN'T THAT THE YAGNA* RAKSHASA HAS ARRANGED FOR OUR VICTORY?



NANDA PAID HIS RESPECTS TO SAGE MASOPAVASI WHO WAS CONDUCTING THE YAGNA.

TOMORROW, WHEN THE FINAL OFFERING IS MADE, A DIVINE HAND WILL EMERGE FROM THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE TO RECEIVE IT...



...AND WITHIN MINUTES THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WILL COLLAPSE AND DIE IN THOUSANDS.

* FIRE-SACRIFICE



NANDA WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED.

HOLY ONE, COULD WE COME AND WITNESS THE FINAL OFFERING?

YOU ARE WELCOME.



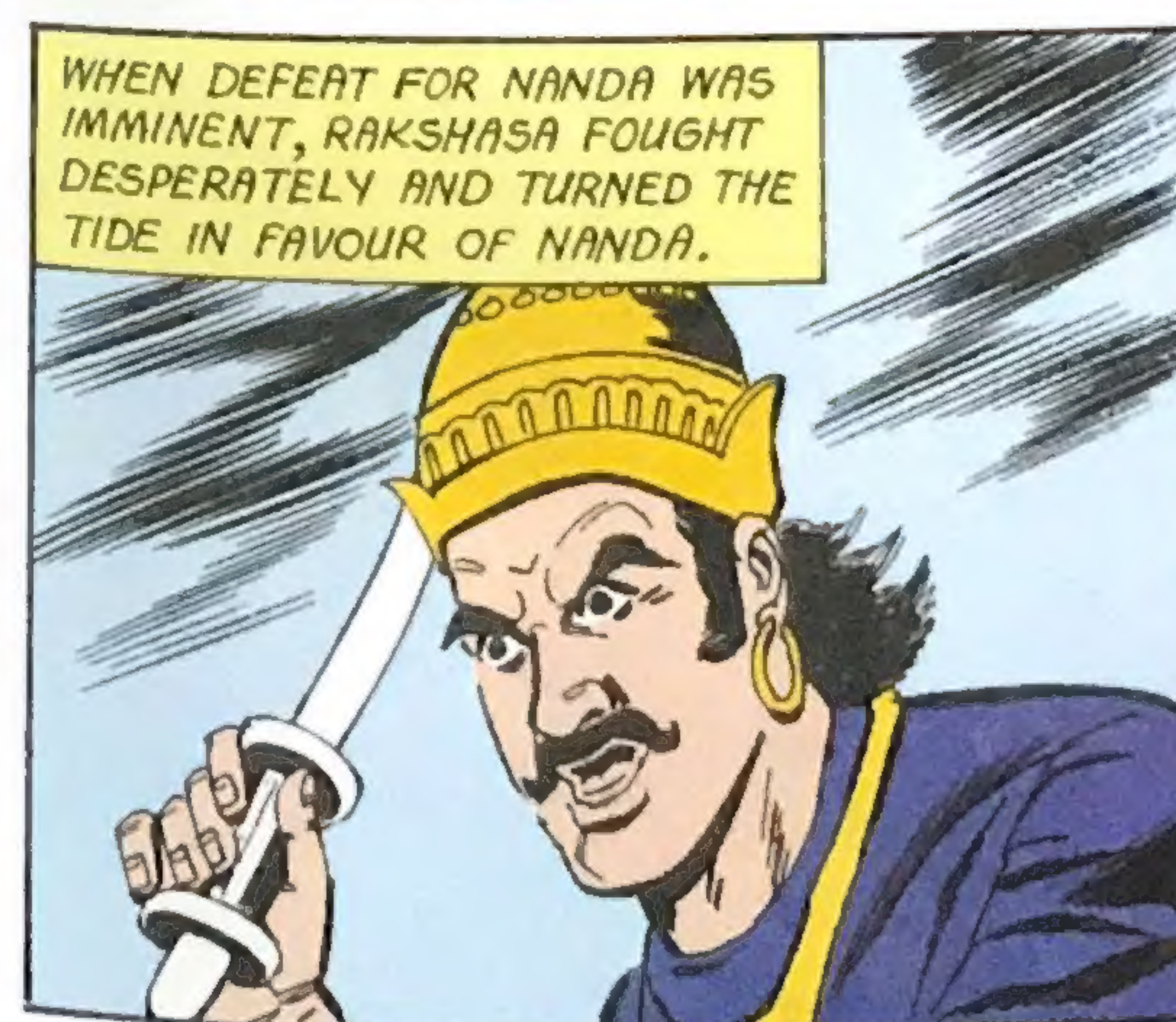
NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS TOOK LEAVE OF THE SAGE AND WENT THEIR WAY.



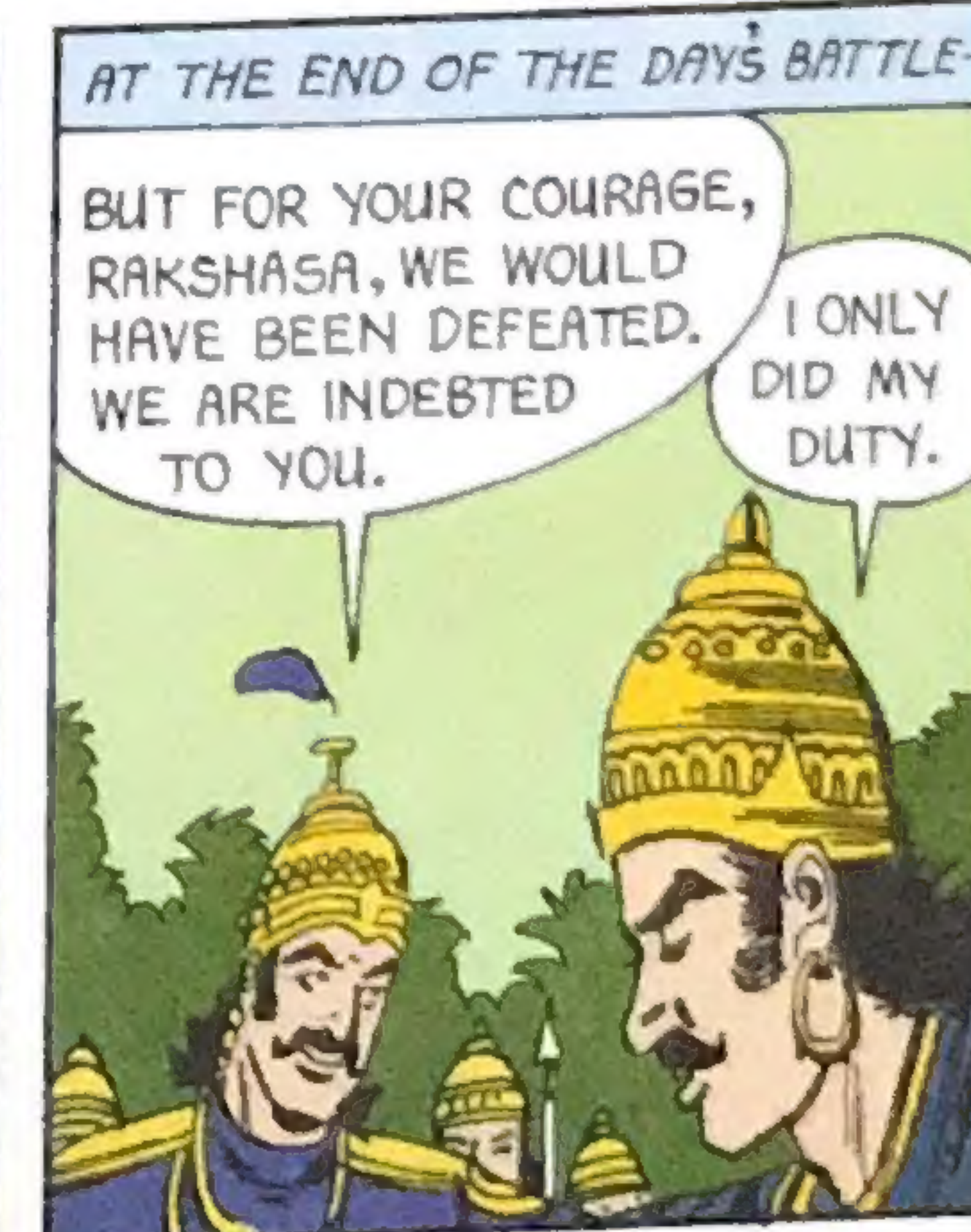
IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S FORCES HAD AN EDGE OVER THE ENEMY.

TURN BACK!

CHANDRAGUPTA IS AFTER US.



WHEN DEFEAT FOR NANDA WAS IMMINENT, RAKSHASA FOUGHT DESPERATELY AND TURNED THE TIDE IN FAVOUR OF NANDA.



AT THE END OF THE DAY'S BATTLE—

BUT FOR YOUR COURAGE, RAKSHASA, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOU.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY.



